

2000-01 MIAC MEN'S BASKETBALL PREVIEW

Men's Basketball Playoffs

The MIAC Men's Basketball Playoff will be expanded to six teams this season, and will take place February 20, 22 and 24, 2001. Playoff berths and seedings will be determined by the final regular-season conference standings. The winner of the MIAC Playoff will receive the automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament.

Men's Basketball Playoff Schedule

Tue., Feb. 20

game 1: #3 seed vs. #6 seed

game 2: #4 seed vs. #5 seed

Thur., Feb. 22

game 3: #1 seed vs. lowest seed remaining

game 4: #2 seed vs. higher seed remaining

Sat., Feb. 24

game 5: game 3 winner vs. game 4 winner

Augsburg College

Head Coach: Brian Ammann (213th season)

1999-00 Record: 16-8 (15-5 MIAC / 2nd)

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

Matt Davis (F/C, Sr., Marshall, MN), 6-5, 210, All-MIAC HM, 10.0 ppg, 8.1 rpg in 99-00.

Josh Natzel (F, Jr., St. Louis Park, Minn.), 6-4, 180, 3.7 ppg, 2.8 rpg.

Nathan Hoerr (G, Sr., Burnsville, Minn.), 6-0, 175, 6.5 ppg, 4.0 rpg.

Travis Hinze (G, Sr., Janesville, Minn./J-W-P HS), 6-0, 170, 6.2 ppg, 1.3 rpg.

Chris York (G, So., Burnsville, Minn.), 6-0, 185, 4.4 ppg, 1.5 rpg, 1.5 assists pg.

Season Preview:

There isn't a bona-fide "star" on this season's Augsburg College men's basketball team. Gone are the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference's Most Valuable Players from the past three seasons — Devean George (1997-98, 1998-99) and Jeoffrey Reed (1999-2000). Kevin Van Rossum, the school's all-time leading three-point shooter, is gone as well. But there is not despair for 13th-season head coach Brian Ammann and his Auggies, as he has assembled a deep and quick group of players who will look to improve Augsburg's standing from last year's 16-8 overall, 15-5 MIAC finish.

"We don't have any standouts on this team that were head and shoulders above the rest of the team, like Devean and Jeoffrey were," Ammann admitted. "But we have a lot of guys who can play. We have the ability to consistently average in the 80s for scoring, and not have a single person average over 15 points per game. This should be a much more balanced team than we've had in quite a few years."

Augsburg has had nine double-digit victory seasons in a row under Ammann, and with talent and depth at every position, the Auggies have a solid shot at reaching the MIAC's postseason playoffs for the fifth season in a row. The MIAC playoffs will be expanded from four to six teams this season; Augsburg has finished in the top six in the MIAC standings in five of the last six years, including the last four seasons in a row. With the quickness and depth, Ammann is anticipating running a fast, pressing style on both offense and defense, with a rotation going as many as 11 to 13 players deep.

The team's strength may be in its low-post players, as two starters return, along with several talented backups and newcomers at the center and forward positions.

Matt Davis (Sr., Marshall, Minn.), an All-MIAC honorable mention selection last year, returns to lead the Auggies in the low post. He averaged 10 points and a team-high 8.1 rebounds per game last season. The 6-5 post player was also second in the conference in rebounding, averaging 8.3 rebounds per contest in league play.

The power forward position will be filled by Tommy Chatman (Sr., Shakopee, Minn./Jordan HS), who played with Davis for two seasons at Fergus Falls (Minn.) Community College, earning a junior college national title in 1997-98. Chatman played on an Iowa Intercollegiate Athletic Conference title team at Upper Iowa University in 1998-99 before taking a year off and transferring to Augsburg for his senior year.

Five other players will also see extensive action at the forward spots, led by Josh Natzel (Jr., St. Louis Park, Minn.) and Nathan Hoerr (Sr., Burnsville, Minn.). Both were solid contributors last season, Hoerr averaging 6.5 points and 4.0 rebounds per game, Natzel averaging 3.7 points and 2.8 rebounds per contest in his first year as a starter at small forward.

Losing the leadership of Reed and Van Rossum at the guard spots will present Ammann with some difficult shoes to fill. Reed led the team in scoring (14.3 points per game) and assists (74) to notch MIAC co-Player of the Year honors (with St. John's guard Troy Bigalke), while Van Rossum set the school's career three-pointer record with 239, finishing 15th in school history in career scoring (1,025 points). However, there is talent ready to assume the guard roles.

At the shooting guard spot, Travis Hinze (Sr., Janesville, Minn./Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton HS) returns for his senior season. Hinze, in his first season after transferring from Bethany Lutheran (Minn.) CC, averaged 6.2 points per game last year as one of the first players off the bench (19.1 minutes per game), hitting 24 percent of his three-pointers. At point guard, Chris York (So., Burnsville, Minn.) was a solid player off the bench, averaging 4.4 points and 1.5 assists per game last year.

Bethel College

Head Coach: Bob Bjorklund (4th season / 38-34)

1999-00 Record: 14-11 (12-8 MIAC / 4th-tie)

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

Eric Robertson, Junior, Post, 11.1 ppg, 6.0 rpg, captain, off-season knee surgery

Matt Newman, Junior, Post, 2.2 ppg, 3.5 rpg, off-season wrist surgery

Brett Repasky, Junior, Wing, 9.9 ppg, 3.5 rpg, 50.7% 3pt. FG

Jesse Peterson, Senior, Guard, captain, 7.4 ppg, 2.4 rpg, team leader in assists

Trevor Larson, Junior, Wing, 5.0 ppg, 2.3 rpg

Andy Gilbert, Sophomore, Post, 10.1 ppg, 5.8 rpg, All-First year team

Season Preview:

After finishing in the MIAC's top four and moving on the conference playoffs the previous two seasons, Bethel is again aiming for a high conference finish as they return a strong nucleus that will give solid leadership.

On the perimeter, senior captain Jesse Peterson (Milaca, MN) will again lead the Royals as the point guard. He is a two-year starter and has been a regular since his freshman season. Junior wing Brett Repasky (Maple Grove, MN) broke into the starting lineup midway through the 99-00 season and immediately established himself as scorer. He led the team in three-point shooting and was second in the MIAC, as he connected on 50.7% of shots from behind the arc. Junior wing Trevor Larson (Stillwater, MN) adds a long-distance shooting threat to the Royals and will look to build upon his sophomore season where he averaged 5.0 points per game.

Sophomores Drew Brodin (Vadnais Heights, MN) and Joe Madson (Redwood Falls, MN) will look to step up to the varsity after impressive seasons on the junior varsity.

Inside, juniors Eric Robertson (Anoka, MN), Matt Newman (Lebanon, OH), Josh Smith (Braham, MN), and sophomore Andy Gilbert (Plymouth, MN) will see the majority of playing time. Robertson, a two-year starter, enters his junior year as a returning All-MIAC player and looking to return from off-season knee surgery. Gilbert established himself as a versatile player, able to play inside or on the perimeter and was the Royals third leading scorer as a freshman, averaging, 10.1 points per game and was named to the All-First year team by the MIAC.

Fourth-year head coach Bob Bjorklund is excited about the veteran leadership of his team, "A more veteran team should help us avoid the pitfalls of a slow start and not be surprised by the intensity of the league" he stated.

Complete preview at: www.bethel.edu/Athletics/MensBB/01preview.html

Carleton College

Head Coach: Guy Kalland (17th season / 212-193)

1999-00 Record: 9-15 (6-14 MIAC / 9th)

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

Jeff Jensen, F, Sr., 6-4, 14.4 ppg, 3.5 rpg, 35.7 3-pt FG pct.

Steve Knutson, F, Sr., 6-4, 12.4 ppg, 4.8 rpg, 2.7 apg, 37.1 3-pt. FG pct.

Steve Nuessle, F, Jr., 6-4, 11.0 ppg, 6.8 rpg, 57.3 FG pct.

Scott Christensen, G, So., 10.1 ppg, 33.8 3-pt. FG pct., 4.1 apg, All-MIAC First-Year Team.

Peter Kiedrowski, G, Jr., 3.9 ppg, 3.9 rpg.

Season Preview:

With four of five starters returning and a strong perimeter centered around Steve Knutson (Sr./Eden Prairie, Minn.), Jeff Jensen (Sr./Billings, Mont./Skyview), and Scott Christensen (So./Northfield, Minn.), the Carleton Knights will look to return to the MIAC Playoffs. Christensen returns after sitting out the last five games of the 1999-2000 season with a broken leg. His injury did not prevent him from being named to the MIAC All First-Year team. Co-captains Jensen and Knutson figure to return to their starting wing positions and to continue terrorizing the MIAC with their deadly three-point shooting. While the perimeter group will be strong, Carleton's post men will also hold their own. Junior Steve Nuessle (Bloomington, Minn./Jefferson) looks to return to his starting spot in the post. Junior Peter Kiedrowski (Minneapolis/Minnehaha Academy) may be asked to step into a similar role as Mike Binder did last year, playing in the post at the beginning of this year. The five first-year players are led by big men, Tanner Schiek (Austin, Minn.), listed at 6'7", and Andrew Knap (Bay Village, Ohio/Bay), 6'8", who will address a need for post players that has plagued the Knights in the past. While the Knights will face outstanding competition, the stated goal is to get back to the MIAC Tournament, which Guy Kalland-coached teams have done eight times in the last 11 seasons. "We clearly want to be back in the playoffs," he said. "Everything we do on the practice floor is designed to get us there."

Concordia College

Head Coach: Duane Siverson (8th season / 98-122)

1999-00 Record: 9-15 (7-13 MIAC / 8th)

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

Robb Flint, G, Jr, 5-10, 160, Dilworth MN DGF

Nick Killoran, G, Sr, 6-1, 190, Buffalo ND - 3 yr varsity starter, 7th in MIAC in assists in 99-00

Mike Syverson F Jr 6-3 155 Twin Valley MN/Norman Co. East

Jeff Ubben, C, Jr, 6-7, 200, 99-00 All-MIAC HM, Avg. 12.6 pts/game, 7.0 rebounds/game, 5th in MIAC in rebounds in 99-00

Season Preview:

Concordia is coming off a 9-15 season that showed steady improvement from start to finish. Coach Duane Siverson will be looking for that trend of improvement to continue in the 2000-2001 season. Although the Cobbers lost leading scorer and All-MIAC performer Joe Ford (Grand Forks, ND), there is reason for optimism in the Cobber camp. The team will return the leading rebounder and second leading scorer from a year ago, as well as the leading player in assists. Add to that several newcomers who will add depth and additional scoring, and Concordia will be looking to make a run at the new six-team MIAC playoff format this season. Junior Jeff Ubben (Moorhead, MN) averaged 7.0 rebounds and 12.6 points as a sophomore last year, and was voted to the All-MIAC Honorable Mention team. He finished fifth in the league in rebounding with a 6.7 average, and his quick inside step and tenacious demeanor will give Concordia a solid

presence underneath. Senior Nick Killoran (Buffalo, MN) averaged 2.7 assists in the MIAC last year, seventh in the league, and will be back to help lead the backcourt. Killoran, a three-year varsity starter, will team with spark plug Robb Flint (Jr., Dilworth, MN) to help direct the Cobbers offense. Junior Mike Syverson (Twin Valley, MN) was a bright spot last year coming onto the squad and starting 22 games. He will give the team much needed help on the defensive end.

Incoming players who will see playing time are local transfer students Joe Snowden (Sr., St. Paul, MN) and Stefan Swiat (Sr., Bullville, NY). Snowden transferred from North Dakota State University and Swiat crossed the street, coming over from MSU-Moorhead. Snowden will give the Cobbers an additional scoring threat and more depth along the perimeter, while Swiat will be used at several spots and will help take the pressure off of Ubben inside.

Gustavus Adolphus College

Head Coach: Mark Hanson (11th season / 190-80)

1999-00 Record: 14-10 (12-8 MIAC / 5th)

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

Bobby Johnson, SR, Post, 6-6, 210, 28.6 min/gm, 5.5 rbs/gm, 27 blocks, 16.3 pts/gm

Kirk Walberg, JR, Wing, 6-3, 205, 31.2 min/gm, 4.2 rbs/gm, 44 assists, 14.4 pts/gm

Hans Sviggum, SO, Guard, 5-8, 152, 22 min/gm, 72% FT, 46 assists, 7.8 pts/gm

Chad Henke, JR, Post, 6-4, 225, 22 min/gm, 6.7 rbs/gm, 55% FG

Season Preview:

After narrowly missing the MIAC playoffs last season, the Gusties are looking to get back into the thick of things as they return four starters from last year's squad. Gone are MIAC All-Defensive Team member Brent Olson (6-5, Guard) and Hans Engebretson (6-6, Post.)

Head Coach Mark Hanson and assistant coach Mike Boschee will be looking to six returning regulars to help this year's squad get back to playoff form. Senior all-conference selection Bobby Johnson will lead the Gusties on the floor this year as he brings back 16.3 points and 5.5 rebounds per game. The savvy 6-6 post brings back a versatile style that saw him knock down 26 three-pointers and block 27 shots in the 1999-00 season while averaging 28.6 minutes per game. All-conference wing Kirk Walberg is back for his third season with the Gusties. An athletic player that earned the MIAC's Sixth Man Award in his first season with Gustavus, Walberg has hit 46% of his shots from beyond the arc in his first two years. This year, look for Walberg to improve on his 14.4 points per game average, while at the same time making a run at the MIAC All-Defensive Team. Veteran guard Mark Gustavson, who averaged 4.7 points per game in 1999-00, is expected to be an integral part of the perimeter rotation again this season along with sophomore Hans Sviggum whose play improved drastically as the season progressed a year ago. The speedy 5-8 guard is a threat to drive to the hoop, often earning a trip to the free throw line. He got to the stripe 78 times last season and knocked down 72% of those shots. The Gusties will need Sviggum to add to his 46 assists and 28 steals from a year ago if they expect to get back into the MIAC Playoffs.

Junior Chad Henke will play a valuable role on the blocks for the Gusties after averaging nine points and seven rebounds per game to go along with his 47 assists and valuable leadership abilities. Sophomore David Newell averaged 19 minutes per game in the last six contests for the Gusties and contributed more than originally expected. Look for Newell to make his presence known to the rest of the MIAC in 2000-01.

With Gustavson and Johnson being the only seniors on this year's squad, the Gusties will need the younger players to step it up and help carry this team back to its customary position in the MIAC Playoffs.

Hamline University

Head Coach: Tom Gilles (6th season)

1999-00 Record: 6-18 (5-15 MIAC / 10th)

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

Ryan Arndt, sr., g, (4.6 ppg)

Chris Bloomquist, sr., f, (5.4 ppg, 3.7 rpg, 51% FG)

Jeff Campbell, jr., g, (co-captain, honorable mention all-MIAC, 10.8 ppg, 2.8 rpg, 52 assists)

Tyler Gehrking, sr., c, (7.8 ppg, 5.8 rpg)

Mike Granbois, sr., g, (5.6 ppg, 52 assists)

Jim Miller jr., f/c, (5.1 ppg, 3.1 rpg)

Tyler Petrich, so., g

Mike Robison, jr., f, (7.2ppg, 4.4 rpg, 52% FG)

John Simonsen, sr., f, (co-captain, 8.6 ppg, 3.7 rpg, 73 % FT)

Season Preview:

The Fighting Piper Men's Basketball team will look to be increasingly competitive in the 2000-2001 season, fielding a seasoned squad of veteran athletes whose focus and competitive motivation is running on all cylinders.

Head Coach Tom Gilles is both enthusiastic about what this squad of young men can accomplish and ultimately realistic about what it will take to succeed in the tough MIAC Conference. "Last season we were close to winning quite a few more ballgames, but we're still a long way from being a consistently good basketball team," said Coach Gilles. "There really aren't many 'mysteries' in terms of where we as coaches and players need to improve...If we can advance in a few critical areas and become comfortable with making plays when the game is on the line, we have a chance to put together a very successful season."

With a motivated squad of senior athletes and a tough non-conference schedule that includes the likes of Augustana, UW-Lacrosse and UW River Falls, players coaches and fans alike are standing by for what might be the most exciting hoops season in recent Hamline history!

Macalester College

Head Coach: Curt Kietzer (14th season)

1999-00 Record: 8-16 (8-12 MIAC / 7th)

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

Evan Bass (G, Sr., 5-11) 5.2 ppg., 2.3 apg.

Chris Palm (G, Jr., 6-1) 4.9 ppg., 2.1 spg.

Nick Falk (C, Jr., 6-5) 5.8 ppg., 3.0 rpg.

Mike Albo (G, Jr., 6-4) 2.9 ppg.

Season Preview:

Coming off an 8-12 Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (MIAC) season, the Macalester Scots and head coach Curt Kietzer are anxious to post a winning record and move into the top half of the league. The Scots were in the hunt for a spot in the conference post-season playoffs last winter at 8-7 in early February but couldn't maintain their momentum down the stretch. This year, Coach Kietzer is looking towards several key newcomers to join some veterans and help the program make the next step.

There will be several new faces on this year's edition of the Scots as Macalester loses some prime players from a year ago. Forward Doug Hoffert and center Jumaane Saunders graduated, and Patrick Russell (last year's leading scorer in the MIAC) did not re-enroll in school. The Scots must replace players who accounted for about 70% of the team's points and rebounds.

Macalester is looking to get solid play in the backcourt from veterans Evan Bass (Sr., Chandler, Ariz.) and Chris Palm (Jr., Hudson, Wis.). Bass shared point guard duties last year and averaged 5.2 ppg., and 2.3 assists per game. Palm is one of the MIAC's top defenders and after an injury-plagued sophomore season will be asked to play a bigger offensive role. He was among the national leaders in steals as a freshman and last year averaged 4.9 points and 2.1 steals. Mike Albo (Jr., Leavenworth, KS) returns to the backcourt as one of the team's best passers and Greg Klancher (So., Bayport, Minn.) is a three-point shooting threat. Center Nick Falk (Jr., Apple Valley, MN) averaged 5.8 points in part-time duty last season and is one of the league's best rebounders and biggest players.

Kietzer recruited five newcomers who are expected to step right in and play major roles. They appear to be stronger defensively and athletically than the players they must replace and could help give the Scots one of the MIAC's top defensive teams. Guard Ryan Gerry (Jr., Cave Creek, Ariz.) transferred to Mac from the University of Northern Arizona and center Doug Benson (Jr., Maple Plaine, Minn.) comes in from Minnesota-Morris. Three talented freshman will also see plenty of action - Ben VanThorre (Minneapolis, Minn.), Adam Denny (Preston, Minn.) and Steve Zachary (St. Paul, Minn.).

Saint John's University

Head Coach: Jim Smith (37th season, 567-381 career record)

1999-00 Record: 20-7 (14-6 MIAC / 3rd / MIAC Playoff Champion)

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

Troy Bigalke, Sr., Guard, '00 MIAC Co-MVP; 19.2 ppg and 4.5 rpg; (20th - SJU's all-time scoring 1,056 pts)

Mike Nester, Jr., Post, '00 All-MIAC; 13.9 ppg and 6.4 rpg

Sam Bugbee, Sr., Guard, '00 MIAC All-Defense; 7.5 ppg and 4.2 rpg

Luke Witt, Jr., Post, 10.3 ppg and 4.1 rpg

Ryan Keating, Jr., Point, transfer from Univ. of Minnesota

Season Preview:

The Saint John's University basketball team enters the 2000-01 season returning four starters and 10 of its top 11 scorers from last year's MIAC playoff champion and NCAA tournament participant squad. After starting the season with its best start in school history at 10-0, SJU finished the 1999-2000 season with a 20-7 overall record. The 20-7 record was its best single-season winning percentage since 1985-86. SJU lost to Ripon, Wis., 58-55, in the first round of the NCAA tournament. Leading the way for the Johnnies this season will be two-time All-MIAC and 1999-2000 MIAC Co-Most Valuable Player, senior guard Troy Bigalke. Jim Smith will once again coach the Johnnies. Smith is currently the third active and fifth winningest coach in NCAA Division III basketball history. Complete preview can be found at: www.csbsju.edu/sjusports/hoopspre01.html

Saint Mary's University

Head Coach: Bob Biebel (4th season / 25-47)

1999-00 Record: 11-12 (11-9 MIAC / 6th)

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

Nick Michaels (F, So., 6-6, 220, Dyer, Ind., 10.0 ppg, 5.6 rpg, HM All-MIAC, All-First-Year Team selection)

Jason Dzick (G, Jr., 6-4, 180, Duluth, Minn., 8.9 ppg, 2.7 rpg, 15 assists, 17 steals)

Jason Boll (G, Sr., 6-1, 195, Sauk Prairie, Wis., 8.2 ppg, 4.2 rpg, 61 assists, All-MIAC Defensive Team selection)

Andy Bohnker (F, So., 6-6, 205, Story City, Iowa, 5.6 ppg, 4.3 rpg)

Season Preview:

Every year at this time, Saint Mary's University men's basketball coach Bob Biebel finds himself in the same predicament - desperately searching for a way to put the pieces of the Cardinal puzzle together.

The problem is, every year, the pieces never seemed to slide neatly into place.

Oh, sure, Biebel managed to get the puzzle put together, it's just that on more than one occasion, he found himself cramming a square peg into a round hole. Not this year.

As Biebel completed preparation for the 2000-2001 season, he found himself floating in some rather unfamiliar waters - his puzzle pieces all seemed to fit together to form what he hopes will be a picture-perfect season.

"I think we have better talent, top-to-bottom, than we did a year ago," said Biebel, whose 1999-2000 team finished with an 11-13 overall record - the Cardinals' highest win total since a 13-11 season in 1986-87. "We have a very athletic team and, for the first time since I've been here, we've got some depth - which will definitely make us a more versatile team."

And therein lies the biggest challenge to Biebel completing his perfect puzzle.

With a team loaded with talented players, how will Biebel be able to keep everyone happy?

It's what Biebel calls a "dicey situation," but one that certainly has its up-side.

"My biggest challenge right now is finding a way to keep everyone happy," explained Biebel. "Last year was easy - we had a starting lineup of the same five guys virtually all season, and we had X-number of guys we could use off the bench - and that was it.

"This year, we could have a number of different starting lineups over the course of the season - guys could be starting and playing 20-30 minutes one night, and coming off the bench to give us five (minutes) the next," Biebel continued. "We have so many interchangeable parts at each position - and that's a luxury we haven't had in the past."

As luxurious as that sounds, Biebel also knows that if his team is going to be successful, they are going to have to check their egos at the front door.

"If we're going to win, it's not going to be because one guy scored 40 points, or one guy had 20 rebounds - it's going to be because everyone did their part," Biebel warned. "It's very important that the guys on this team understand and accept their roles."

And if they do, the Cardinals could very well be playing in their first-ever MIAC post-season playoffs.

"A lot of guys on this team got a taste of success last year and they want to take that next step," said Biebel, whose team finished with an 11-9 conference mark a year ago, equalling SMU's best MIAC finish since the 1986-87 team went 11-9. "We know the league is going to be as strong, or stronger than it was last year, but we're ready for the challenge."

It's a challenge the Cardinals will have to accept without the services of graduated senior Ryan Rankin, a three-time All-MIAC selection and a 1,000-point scorer in his career at SMU.

"We don't have any one player who can replace a Ryan Rankin," admitted Biebel. "But we do have a number of other players who can give us a different dimension than we had a year ago. Last year our offense pretty much revolved around pumping the ball in to Ryan.

"This year, we won't have to do that."

Unfortunately the other characteristic that's missing with the departure of Rankin and fellow seniors John Oleksyn and J.B. Mathison is experience. With just three seniors - only one of which saw significant playing time last year - and two juniors on the roster, Biebel knows that his younger players will have to do their training "on the job."

"Our inexperience would have to be our Achilles' heel," admitted Biebel, whose team opens its season Nov. 18 at Carthage, ranked No. 9 in the preseason Division III Street and Smith's Magazine poll. "But I'm also confident our learning curve will be a quick one.

"I like the way the pieces are falling into place."

St. Olaf College

Head Coach: Dan Kosmoski (6 seasons)

1999-00 Record: 3-21 (3-17 MIAC / 11th)

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

Matt Hofkens (Jr., Neenah, WI)

Mike Ludwig (So., Blaine, MN)

Ryan Olson (Sr., Maple Grove, MN)

Hallie Williams (Sr., Woodbury, MN)

Kevin Jaunich (So., Delano, MN)

Season Preview:

Returning all five starters, the St. Olaf Men's Basketball team hopes to greatly improve upon last season's performance. Leading the way will be junior guard Matt Hofkens (Neenah, WI) who ranked 4th in the MIAC scoring race last season, sophomore forward Mike Ludwig (Blaine, MN), and senior Ryan Olson (Maple Grove, MN).

University of St. Thomas

Head Coach: Steve Fritz (21st season / 350-182/.658 win %)

1999-00 Record: 22-6 (17-3 MIAC / 1st)

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

Mark Buri, JR, 6-2, G, 13.6 ppg, 3.8 rpg, 4.2 apg, 50 3-Pointers, 75.3 FT%, All-MIAC, 98-99 MIAC All-Rookie Team

Mike Wrobel, SR, 6-7, F, 3-year MIAC starter (at Concordia-Mrhd 98-00), led MIAC in rebounds 99-00, AC MIAC, averaged 11 ppg, 8.8 rpg and shot 53.3%, 97-98 MIAC All-1st Year Team

Mychal Brenden, SR, 6-4, G, MIAC All-Defensive Team 99-0, averaged 7.9 ppg, 3.2 rpg, 2.1 rpg

Mark Paulson, SO, 6-8, C, MIAC All-Rookie Team, averaged 7.5 ppg and 3.8 rpg, shot 62.3 FG%

Season Preview:

The 2000-2001 St. Thomas men's basketball team won 14 of its last 15 conference games to claim the MIAC championship and earn an NCAA playoff berth. UST won its NCAA opener at home 80-58 over Nebraska Wesleyan then lost 69-66 at Buena Vista in round two to close 22-6.

Coach Steve Fritz' Tommie teams have never had a losing season in his first 20 years and have qualified for the conference playoffs 12 of the last 13 seasons. St. Thomas looks to continue those streaks this winter with four starters back among 13 returning varsity lettermen.

The Toms graduated two players who contributed to a 69-34 record over the last four seasons -- Kip Sparby, a 6-5 guard who surpassed 1,400 points and 600 rebounds and set the conference career record for three-point baskets (250); and Joe Buri, a 6-4 forward who surpassed 1,100 points and made 156 career treys.

Leading the 2000-2001 returners are two of the conference's elite players. Forward Mike Wrobel, a 6-7 senior, led the MIAC in rebounds last season and recorded double-doubles in four of his final six games last season. Junior point guard Mark Buri had a 29-point game in the NCAA playoffs last season and averaged 13.6 ppg, 4.2 apg and 3.8 rpg. Other starters back are 6-4 senior guard Mychal Brenden, who made the conference All-Defensive Team; and 6-8 sophomore center Mark Paulson, who made the conference All-Rookie Team after shooting 62.5% from the field and averaging 7.5 ppg.

1999-2000 Links- [Standings](#), [Results](#), [Awards](#)

1999-2000 Final Standings**MIAC Overall**

<u>St. Thomas</u>	17-3	22-6
<u>Augsburg</u>	15-5	17-8
<u>St. John's</u>	14-6	20-7
<u>Bethel</u>	12-8	14-11
<u>Gustavus</u>	12-8	14-10
<u>St. Mary's</u>	11-9	11-13
<u>Macalester</u>	8-12	8-16
<u>Concordia</u>	7-13	9-15
<u>Carleton</u>	6-14	9-15
<u>Hamline</u>	5-15	6-18
<u>St. Olaf</u>	3-17	3-21