

2012-13 MIAC Men's Basketball Preview and Preseason Coaches' Poll

Posted: Nov 14, 2012

ST. PAUL, Minn. -- A year ago, the final men's basketball standings in the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (MIAC) were so crowded, seven of the conference's 11 teams found themselves locked in a tie with at least one of the league rivals. That parity is back in 2012-13 and, as the season gets ready to tip off Thursday, the anticipation for the new campaign is at all-time high around the league.

A year ago, seven of the conference's 11 teams finished above .500 in league play, and those same seven squads finished with at least 13 wins overall to show the conference's strength and depth. There were two-way ties for first and ninth, and a three-way tie for fifth in the MIAC standings. The league's parity was further evidenced in the MIAC Men's Basketball Playoffs, as both road teams scored quarterfinal upsets for the first time in the tournament's history.

Neck-and-neck at the top were St. Thomas and Gustavus, as both finished 16-4 in the league to share the MIAC's regular-season title, and the duo also both represented the league in the NCAA Division III Playoffs behind their 20-win campaigns. To top it off, the Tommies edged the Gusties in a MIAC Playoff championship game for the ages that needed overtime to decide a winner.

St. Olaf also had a superb season, finishing just a game behind the co-champs in third place, and fourth-place Augsburg matched the Oles with 16 regular-season wins. Saint John's, Bethel and Hamline all finished in a three-way tie for fifth with identical 11-9 league records, with the Johnnies and Royals claiming the final two MIAC Playoff spots via tiebreaker criteria. Carleton came in eighth, Concordia and Saint Mary's tied for ninth and Macalester rounded out the 2011-12 standings.

Though graduation hit a few of last season's contenders relatively hard, many of the teams in the top-half of the league expect to be at least as good - if not better - in 2012-13. There are numerous returning players who earned postseason honors a year ago, and some incoming talent that should make an immediate impact. When late February rolls around, it won't be a surprise if most of the league is still gunning for a postseason bid, or if tiebreaker criteria again comes into play to shake out the final seeds.

Tommies tabbed No. 1

St. Thomas only graduated one player from its rotation a year ago, and a staggering amount of talent and depth returns for the Tommies in 2012-13. The MIAC coaches certainly recognize that as the season draws near, as they voted St. Thomas the unanimous No. 1 team in the 2012-13 MIAC Men's Basketball Preseason Coaches' Poll. UST received 10 of the 11 first-place votes (coaches could not vote for their own team) and an even 100 points to lead the way.

Beyond the Tommies, the picture is just as cloudy as ever, with nine teams receiving at least 40 points in the poll, and just 20 points separating spots 2-8. Defending co-champ Gustavus was again picked as the Tommies' top contender, finishing second with the other first-place vote and a total of 74 points, but Augsburg was just a point back in third with 73 points in the poll.

Things were especially tight between teams ranked 4-8, as seven points separated the next five teams. Bethel was tabbed fourth with 51 points, Concordia came in fifth with 59, Carleton was just a point behind the Cobbers in sixth with 58, St. Olaf was picked seventh with 56 and Saint John's had 54 points in eighth. Hamline is also expected to again be in Playoff contention with 41 points in ninth place, and Saint Mary's (17) and Macalester (12) rounded out the final two spots in the poll.

What's new?

It was a quiet offseason in the MIAC men's basketball ranks, as all 11 coaches return from a season ago. At St. Thomas, the interim tag was officially lifted as the Tommies made **John Tauer** their permanent coaching fixture last spring. Also, Hamline head coach **Nelson Whitmore** added some responsibility to his plate in the Pipers' athletic department, assuming the title of assistant athletic director in early September.

One new feature in the conference is the league's new stats and scoreboard site, that should be a hit with MIAC basketball fans. The site - www.miacstats.com - offers a nightly scoreboard, which will include links to follow all the action live around the league. Also, the conference stat leader boards will feature faster updates and offer the ability to sort each stat category with a click of the mouse, making it easier for fans to see who the league's leader are in scoring, rebounding and all the other measurables.

Who's back?

As already mentioned, Tauer's Tommie team brings a lot of talent back as they graduated only guard **Peter Leslie** from last season's rotation. In addition, star center Tommy Hannon is back after missing most of 2011-12 with an injury. Hannon and All-MIAC forward **John Nance** - one of the league's best all-around talents - both played big roles in UST's national title two seasons ago, and guard **Will DeBerg** emerged as a go-to-guy last season, giving Tauer a senior trio capable of leading St. Thomas to another MIAC title and beyond this season.

Though MIAC Coach-of-the-Year **Mark Hanson's** Gustavus team graduated MIAC Player-of-the-Year **Seth Anderson** and fellow All-MIAC guard **Tyler Grey**, the Gusties have a few players who appear ready for expanded roles. **Jim Hill** was named the MIAC Sixth Man-of-the-Year last season, and **Ben Biewen** was named All-MIAC Honorable Mention for their roles in the Gusties' title, and **Blake Shay** will be counted on to hold down the frontcourt in St. Peter.



Augsburg graduated a pair of star frontcourt players in **Andy Grzesiak-Grimm** and **Cory Polta**, but **Aaron Griess'** team is loaded at guard. Sharpshooting senior **Tyler Schmidt** returns, as does **Parker Hines** after a breakout freshman season, and junior **Andy Seidlitz** gives the Auggies a dynamic trio in the backcourt. Bethel welcomes back All-MIAC star **Taylor Hall**, a versatile forward who will again be one of the league's top players, and **Jeff Westlund** hopes senior **Greg Meyer** and junior **Kyle Zimmerman** can step up after losing some talented players to graduation, particularly at guard.

Senior guards **Dewon McKenzie** (All-MIAC HM) and **Ebo Nan-Kweson** fuel much of Concordia's optimism, and senior center **Jason Huus** looks to continue his progression after a breakout season in the paint for the Cobbers a year ago. Carleton is another team that returns a plethora of talent in the backcourt, as senior guards **Tom Sawatzke** and **Scott Theisen** were named All-MIAC and All-MIAC Honorable Mention, respectively, and **Shane McSparron** was named to the All-MIAC First-Year Team.

St. Olaf graduated All-MIAC stars **Stu Neville** and **Bobby Fong**, and will look for junior **Connor Gunderson** and All-MIAC First-Year Team guard **Sterling Nielsen** to step into expanded roles and lead the Oles back into postseason contention. Saint John's also said goodbye to an All-Conference duo - **Andy Burns** and **Aaron Barmore** - but returning starters **Seth Marx** and senior **Chris Neumann** will be counted on to lead in **Jim Smith's** 49th season as the head coach in Collegeville.

Hamline has the talented trio of **Noah Aguirre**, **Dior Ford** and **Tyler Pannell** back to run Whitmore's up-tempo offense after finishing above .500 in the MIAC a year ago. Saint Mary's hopes for upward movement led by All-MIAC post **Michael Burfeind** and sophomore guard **Evan Pederson**, who was named to the All-Rookie squad in 2011-12. Macalester is also looking to improve on last season's win total behind star **Pierce Peters**, who is a multiple-time All-MIAC honoree, and fellow senior **Sam Marshall**, who received All-MIAC Honorable Mention a year ago.

Circle these dates

The 2012-13 season officially tips off Thursday with four MIAC teams taking the court in nonconference action. The year really picks up a day later, with 10 games scheduled around the conference on Friday and Saturday. The 11 teams will begin MIAC play on Nov. 28 and will wrap up the 2012 portion of the league schedule on Dec. 5. The 2013 portion of MIAC play will start on Jan. 2 with the regular season concluding on Saturday, Feb. 16. The MIAC Playoffs are set for quarterfinals on Feb. 20, semifinals on Feb. 22 and the postseason championship on Sunday, Feb. 24.

With 20 conference games on each team's schedule and a full double-round robin of MIAC action among the 11 teams, the season is sure to be action-packed, especially if the parity reflected in the coaches' poll is any indication of how the season will play out. There are sure to be plenty of buzzer beaters, overtime thrillers and unforgettable finishes starting Thursday and continuing throughout the season.

A closer look

The rest of the 2012-13 MIAC Men's Basketball Preview contains more details and information about each team to provide a closer look at each MIAC squad as the season draws near. Scroll down to see complete results from the 2012-13 MIAC Men's Basketball Preseason Coaches' Poll, Playoff information, helpful links and team-by-team previews along with links to each team's women's basketball home page. This season, the team previews - provided by each school's sports information director - received a facelift to give fans a more user-friendly way to prepare for the upcoming season.

Continue to visit the MIAC Web site throughout the season for updated scores, standings, stats and more, and for additional updates and interaction connect to the MIAC on its social media pages, including [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [YouTube](#).

2012-13 MIAC Men's Basketball Preseason Coaches' Poll

Coaches voted for every team in the conference except their own team. Points were assigned for each vote (10 for first, nine for second, etc.) Teams are ranked in order of highest point total to lowest with vote totals listed and first-place votes shown in parentheses.

2012-13 MIAC Men's Basketball Preseason Coaches' Poll		
Rank	Institution	Total
1	St. Thomas (10)	100
2	Gustavus (1)	74
3	Augsburg	73
4	Bethel	61
5	Concordia	59
6	Carleton	58
7	St. Olaf	56
8	Saint John's	54
9	Hamline	41
10	Saint Mary's	17
11	Macalester	12

2012-13 MIAC Men's Basketball Playoffs

The 2012-13 MIAC Playoffs will feature the top six teams in the conference standings playing in a high-seed-host, single-elimination postseason tournament. The top two seeds receive first-round byes, with the other four squaring off in the quarterfinals. The two quarterfinal games will be held Feb. 20 with the winners advancing to the semifinals on Feb. 22. The championship is scheduled for Feb. 24. The winner will receive the MIAC's automatic bid to the 2012-13 NCAA Division III Men's Basketball Tournament.

| [MIAC Men's Basketball Playoffs Websites](#) | [2011-12](#) | [2012-13](#) |

MIAC Men's Basketball Links

| [MIAC Home Page](#) | [Scoreboard & Stats](#) | [2012-13 Schedule](#) | [2011-12 Statistics](#) | [2011-12 Standings](#) | [Recordbook](#) | [Archives](#) |



AUGSBURG | [Auggies' men's basketball home page](#) |

Head Coach

- Aaron Griess (Eighth season)

A Year Ago

- 13-7 MIAC (Fourth place) | 16-10 Overall

In the 2011-12 Postseason

- MIAC Playoffs – Lost 47-45 to St. John's in first round

Top Returners

- Tyler Schmidt (SR, G | Led MIAC in 3FG made (72) and FT pct. (.911), while 2nd in 3FG pct. (.444); 13.9 ppg, 2.3 rpg, 26 steals, 48 assists in 2011-12).
- Parker Hines (SO, G | Limited to 9 games in 2011-12; 6.6 ppg, 2.0 rpg, 51 assists in 2011-12; All-MIAC First-Year Team in 2010-11 with 6.5 ppg, 2.6 rpg, 68 assists).
- Andy Seidlitz (JR, G | 8.9 ppg, 2.6 rpg, 49 assists, 18 steals in 2011-12).

Key Losses

- Andy Grzesiak-Grimm (P, All-MIAC in 2011-12, All-MIAC honorable mention in 2010-11 and 2009-10, D3hoops.com All-West Region 3rd team in 2011-12; 15.2 ppg, 9.7 rpg, 14 blocked shots, 21 steals, 50 assists in 2011-12; 1,151 points, 723 rebounds, 80 blocked shots in 104-game career).
- Cory Polta (P; All-MIAC honorable mention in 2011-12, All-MIAC in 2010-11; 11.0 ppg, 7.0 rpg, 40 blocked shots, 14 steals, 31 assists in 2011-12; 904 points, 578 rebounds, 126 blocked shots in 105-game career).
- Brett Sorenson (G/F, MIAC All-Defensive Team in 2011-12, 2010-11 and 2009-10; 3.3 ppg, 4.0 rpg, 31 steals, 21 assists, 4 blocked shots in 2011-12; 513 points, 402 rebounds, 104 steals, 118 assists, 26 blocked shots in 104-game career).

By the Numbers

- 102: Career three-pointers for Augsburg's Tyler Schmidt, currently 10th in school history in the career category. Augsburg's career record for three-pointers is 239, by Kevin Van Rossum (1996-2000).
- 18: Number of Augsburg players to score 1,000-plus points in their men's basketball careers, after Andy Grzesiak-Grimm joined the elite list last season. Grzesiak-Grimm finished his career 12th in school history in scoring (1,151 points).
- 3: Number of MIAC postseason playoff appearances in a four-season span for Augsburg under head coach Aaron Griess.

Did You Know?

- Andy Grzesiak-Grimm, who is serving as a volunteer assistant coach this season, is one of only four Augsburg players to ever score 1,000 points and pull down 700 rebounds in their careers, joining Dan Anderson (1961-65, 2,052 points, 1,211 rebounds), Deveen George (1995-99, 2,258 points, 868 rebounds) and Paul Meissner (1974-78, 1,072 points, 725 rebounds). Grzesiak-Grimm finished his career with 1,151 points and 723 rebounds.

Off the Court

- In October, Augsburg's men's basketball team took part in a community service project at the nonprofit Feed My Starving Children organization, packing a total of 17,280 meals in a two-hour span – enough to feed 47 needy children for an entire year.
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BETHEL | [Royals' men's basketball home page](#) |

Head coach

- Jeff Westlund (Seventh Season)

A Year Ago

- 11-9 MIAC (T-5th Place) | 16-11 Overall

In the 2011-12 Postseason

- Defeated St. Olaf 77-58 in the MIAC quarterfinals before losing to St. Thomas 64-74 in MIAC semifinals

Top Returners

- Taylor Hall (Sr., F | 2011-12 All-MIAC, 16.2 ppg, 6.3 rpg, 2.1 apg, 1.1 spg, 1.0 bpg)
- Kyle Zimmerman (Jr., F | 11.7 ppg, 6.7 rpg, 1.6 apg, 1.3 spg)
- Greg Meyer (Sr., G | 6.4 ppg, 2.0 rpg)

Key Losses

- Daniel Baah (G | 2011-12 All-MIAC, 13.1 ppg)
- Kellan Dahlquist (G/F | Four-year contributor, two-year starter, Captain)
- Eric Hildebrandt (G | Three-year contributor, captain)

By the Numbers

- .400: Bethel finished the 2011-12 season as the number one field goal percentage defense in the conference, holding opposing offenses to just .400 shooting.
- 34.5: The Royals finished second in the conference in rebounding offense last year, averaging 34.5 rebounds per game while holding opposing defenses to 32.1 rebounds a night (T-4th). BU is excited to bring back its top two rebounders in Kyle Zimmerman and Taylor Hall for the 2012-13 season.
- .575: Junior forward Kyle Zimmerman tallied the second-highest field goal percentage within the MIAC throughout the 2011-12 season, finishing with a shooting mark of .575.

Did You Know?

- Senior Taylor Hall exceeded the 1,000-point threshold last season and finished his junior year with 1,094 points. If Hall maintains his 13.5 career average throughout the season, he will be a member of the Top 10 leading scorers in Bethel history.

Off the Court

- The men's basketball squad traveled to Berlin, Germany this summer for an opportunity to serve the local community and compete against national teams. Throughout their trip, Bethel went 5-0 on the court and also had the opportunity to work with organizations such as Serve the City. The BU squad did yard maintenance, painting, equipment repair, and other services for homes with disabled housemates.



CARLETON | [Knights' men's basketball home page](#) |

Head coach

- Guy Kalland (29th season)

A Year Ago

- 6-14 MIAC (Eighth place) | 9-16 Overall

Top Returners

- Tom Sawatzke (Sr., Guard | All-MIAC in 2011-12; averaged 15.1 ppg during MIAC games, eighth in the conference; made 59 three-pointers which ranked second in the MIAC)
- Scott Theisen (Sr., Wing | All-MIAC honorable mention in 2011-12; ranked among conference top-10 with 14.4 points, 5.9 rebounds, and 1.48 steals per game.
- Shane McSparron (So., Guard | Named to All-First Year Team; ranked among MIAC's top-15 players with .532 field-goal percentage, 2.10 assists per game, and 0.60 blocks per contest)

Key Losses

- Caleb Rosenow (Forward | All-MIAC in 2011-12; averaged 14.4 ppg and third in MIAC with 7.7 rebounds; tallied five double-doubles)

By the Numbers

- 7: Seven of Carleton's losses last season were by four points or less, including a pair of overtime setbacks against St. Olaf that saw the famed "Goat Trophy" leave Carleton's possession for only the second time in the last 22 seasons.
- 10: Last year's sub-.500 record snapped a streak of 10 consecutive post-season appearances for the Knights.
- 3.50: Despite not playing as a guard for most of the season, Scott Theisen paced the conference with 3.50 assists per MIAC game and was second with a 1.59 assist-to-turnover ratio.

Did You Know?

- Carleton committed just 11.8 fouls per game last season, which was the best figure among all NCAA schools (Div. I, II, and III) for the third time in the last six years. The Knights have ranked among the Division III's top four and the NCAA's top 10 in this category for each of the past six seasons.



CONCORDIA | [Cobbers' men's basketball home page](#) |

Head coach

- Rich Glas (5th season)

A Year Ago

- 5-15 MIAC (T-9th place) | 7-18 Overall

Top Returners

- Dewon McKenzie (Sr., G | All-MIAC Honorable Mention, top 15 in the MIAC in 2011-12 in assists, steals and 3-point field goals made)
- Ebo Nana-Kweson (Sr., G | Led team in scoring in 2011-12 with a 11.4 ppg average, 3-year starter)
- Jason Huus (Sr., C | Led the team in rebounding in 2011-12 with a 7.2 rpg average, fourth in the MIAC in total rebounds and led the MIAC in offensive rebounds)

Key Losses

- Johnathan Molina (PG | 4-year starter, second on the team in assist-to-turnover ratio)

By the Numbers

- 5: Concordia returns all five starters from last year's team
- 24: Concordia has 24 players on this year's roster - half of those are newcomers
- 58.9: Cobber senior center made 58.9% of his field goal attempts in MIAC games and led the conference in that statistical category

Did You Know?

- Jason Huus went from playing just 94 minutes his entire sophomore season to 658 last year as a junior. He also upped his point production from 33 in 2010-11 to 260 in 2011-12 and went from 23 rebounds two years ago to 181 last season.



GUSTAVUS | [Gusties' men's basketball home page](#) |

Head coach

- Mark Hanson (23rd season)

A Year Ago

- 16-4 MIAC (T-1st place) | 20-8 Overall

In the 2011-12 Postseason

- 2011-12 MIAC Playoffs - Defeated Saint John's in semifinals 64-52, lost to St. Thomas in championship 66-62 (OT).
- 2011-12 NCAA Division III Playoffs - Lost to Wheaton in first round 68-60.

Top Returners

- Ben Biewen - Sr. G, Edina, Minn. | MIAC All-Conference Honorable Mention, led team in assists (2.5 asts/game), second on team in scoring (8.8 pts/game)
- Jim Hill - Sr. W, Edina, Minn. | MIAC Sixth Man-of-the-Year, second on team in scoring (8.2 pts/game) and rebounding (3.9 reb/game)
- Blake Shay - Sr. P, Lakeville, Minn. | second on team in blocked shots (14), fifth on team in scoring (5.8 pts/game)

Key Losses

- Seth Anderson - Minnesota Lake, Minn. | NABC and d3hoops.com All-American, MIAC Player-of-the-Year, led MIAC in scoring (21.5

pts/game)

- Paul Blacklock - Winona, Minn. | MIAC All-Defensive Team, MIAC All-Conference Honorable Mention, led team in rebounding (6.7 reb/game) and blocked shots (44)
- Tyler Grey - Montevideo, Minn. | MIAC All-Conference, fourth in MIAC in 3-pt. percentage (.412), fourth on team in scoring (8.0 pts/game)

By the Numbers

- .650: The percentage of scoring that the Gusties lost per game from last season.
- 5: The number of times Gustavus has repeated as champion following a season in which it earned at least a share of the regular season title.
- .773: With a record of 266-78, the Gusties boast a winning percentage of .773 on Gus Young Court, their home floor.

Did You Know?

- After being named the MIAC Coach-of-the-Year last season, head coach Mark Hanson has now received the award eight times in his coaching career.



HAMLIN | [Pipers' men's basketball home page](#) |

Head coach

- Nelson Whitmore (Sixth season)

A Year Ago

- 11-9 MIAC (T-5th place) | 13-12 Overall

Top Returners

- Noah Aguirre (Sr., F, Fillmore, Calif.); Started 24 games (9.4 ppg, 4.9 rpg)
- Dior Ford (So., F, Tucson, Ariz.); Led team with 21 Blocks; averaged 11.9 per game; All-MIAC First Year team
- Tyler Pannell (Jr., G, Portland, Ore.); led team with 43 3-pointers;

Key Losses

- Mike Campbell (G, Burnsville, Minn.) 10th in MIAC in scoring (14.2 ppg); All-MIAC and All-Defensive team
- Levi Wenrich (G, Newhall, Calif.) 6th in MIAC in assists (2.64 apg); All-MIAC Honorable Mention
- Brandon Rieg (G, Riverside, Calif.); lead team in FT Percentage (.889); All-MIAC Sportsmanship Team

By the Numbers

- 3: Consecutive season the Pipers have finished over .500 – first time that has happened here in two decades.
- 9: Number of victories the 2011-12 team had when holding opponents under 70 points. They were 9-1 overall.
- 40: Final margin of victory over Cal Tech (88-48). It was the largest margin of victory for a HU team in over 30 years.

Did You Know?

- Hamline alums have won more NBA titles (7) than have players from Kansas, Kentucky, Duke and Syracuse.



MACALESTER | [Scots' men's basketball home page](#) |

Head coach

- Tim Whittle (Fourth season)

A Year Ago

- 1-19 MIAC (11th place) | 1-24 Overall

Top Returners

- Pierce Peters (Sr., F/G | All-MIAC, 18.8 ppg., 7.1 rpg., 88% FT, 41% 3's, 36 blk., 7 double-doubles)
- Sam Marshall (Sr., F | Honorable Mention All-MIAC, 11.8 ppg., 6.3 rpg.)
- Justin Wasik (Jr., G | 7.4 ppg.)

Key Losses

- Lamont Diggs (F, 5.4 ppg., 3.8 rpg.)

By the Numbers

- 1,109: Pierce Peters heads into his senior season with 1,109 career points at Macalester.
- 12: Macalester's roster is made up of players from 12 states.
- .311: The Scots held their MIAC opponents to a .311 three-point percentage, second best in the conference.

Did You Know?

- This year's team has 17 players, the most on a Macalester roster since 2003-04.

Off the Court

- Pierce Peters, a Chemistry major with a 3.7 GPA, was the only MIAC player named to last year's Capital One All-District 6 Academic team last year.

SAINT JOHN'S | [Johnnies' men's basketball home page](#) |

Head coach

- Jim Smith (49th season)

A Year Ago

- 11-9 MIAC (T-5th place) | 16-11 Overall

In the 2011-12 Postseason

- 2011-12 MIAC Playoffs - Defeated Augsburg (47-45), Lost to Gustavus Adolphus (52-64)



Top Returners

- Seth Marx (Jr., W | Started all 27 games last winter...led the Johnnies in three-pointers made (56-148), was third in points (239), and second in rebounds (4.4 rpg.) last season.
- Chris Neumann (Sr., W/P | Appeared in all 27 games (18 starts)...averaged 8.1 points and 4.3 rebounds per game while shooting 45.9 percent (17 of 37) from three-point range last season...missed a double-double by one rebound three times in 2011-12.
- Patrick Butcher (Jr., G | Appeared in all 27 games (five starts)...averaged 15.4 minutes and 5.3 points per game last season.

Key Losses

- Andy Burns (G | Four-year starter...finished his career 26th in school history with 1,068 points...also finished second in assists (377), fourth in both three-pointers made (160) and attempted (418), sixth in free-throws made (246) and seventh in steals (123)...earned All-MIAC honorable mention status for two consecutive seasons (2010 and 2011) before earning All-MIAC first-team honors in 2011-12.
- Aaron Barmore (W/P | Four-year starter...ended his career with 969 points and a .536 shooting percentage in 103 career games...All-MIAC first-team selection in 2011-12.

By the Numbers

- 49: Head coach Jim Smith begins his 49th season in 2012-13 with a 743-521 career record (.588).
- 37: SJU has had at least one first team All-MIAC selection each of the last 21 seasons for a total of 37.
- 18: There are 18 freshmen on the SJU roster this season, at least five of which are expected to contribute immediately this year.

Did You Know?

- The Johnnies swept their season series with MIAC Playoff Champion St. Thomas and defeated another NCAA Tournament team, Wisconsin-Stevens Point, last season. SJU also won its first MIAC playoff game on the road since the 2002-03 season.

Off the Court

- Three Saint John's University basketball student-athletes (Barmore, Butcher and junior Kevin McKenzie) earned Academic All-MIAC honors last season.



SAINT MARY'S | [Cardinals' men's basketball home page](#) |

Head coach

- Todd Landrum (Fifth season)

A Year Ago

- 5-15 MIAC (T-9th place) | 5-20 Overall

Top Returners

- Michael Burfeind (6-8, 225, Sr., P | 18.0 ppg, 115 rebounds (4.6 rpg), 11 blocks | First-Team All-MIAC)
- Evan Pederson (5-8, 140, So., G | 8.7 ppg, 33 3FG, 71 Rebounds (2.8 rpg), 80 assists, 34 steals | MIAC All-First Year Team)
- Tom Gores (6-1, 200, Sr., G | 6.0 ppg, 12 3FG, 70 Rebounds (2.8 rpg), 28 assists

Key Losses

- Pat Freeman (11.4 ppg, 129 rebounds (5.2 rpg), 33 3FG, 63 assists, 19 steals, 6 blocks | Honorable-Mention All-MIAC)

By The Numbers

- 8: With their 54-41 win over Macalester on Feb. 4, the Cardinals improved to 8-0 vs. the Scots under coach Todd Landrum.
- 80: Evan Pederson (Onalaska, Wis.) led the team with 80 assists a year ago — the most since Brensley Haywood dished out 81 assists during the 2006-2007 season.
- 292: Michael Burfeind (Lewiston, Minn.) is 292 points away from becoming the 26th player in program history to reach 1,000 career points — and the first since Will Wright and Lukas Holland achieved the feat during the 2010-11 season.

Did You Know?

- SMU's 64-60 win over Carleton on Jan. 18 put an end to a 23-game losing streak against the Knights. SMU had not beaten Carleton since a 69-55 win in Northfield on Jan. 29, 2000.

Off The Court

- The Cardinals have several community service projects on the schedule this season, including — Gifts for Winona Toy Drive on Dec. 8, Roundball for Youth Day on Jan. 12, and Coaches vs. Cancer on Feb. 2.



ST. OLAF | [Oles' men's basketball home page](#) |

Head coach

- Dan Kosmoski (19th Season)

A Year Ago

- 15-5 MIAC (Third place) | 16-10 Overall

In the 2011-12 Postseason

- 2011-12 MIAC Playoffs - Lost to (6) Bethel in the first round

Top Returners

- Connor Gunderson (Jr., F | 8.3 ppg, .526 FG Pct.)
- Sterling Nielsen (Soph., G | All-MIAC First Year Team, 8.5 ppg, .523 FG Pct.)

Key Losses

- Stu Neville (F | All-MIAC, NBCA All-District, 16.2 ppg, 9.0 rpg, All-MIAC Defensive Team, .484 3FG Pct., .536 FG Pct.)
- Bobby Fong (G | All-MIAC, 16.2 ppg, D3hoops.com All-West Region Third Team)

By the Numbers

- 1: St. Olaf has one senior on its roster, 6-6 post Andrew Sathoff, who appeared in nine games in 2011-12.
- 9: The Oles have nine juniors, led by Connor Gunderson. Gunderson has 48 starts to his credit and averaged 8.3 points/game in 2011-12.
- 40: St. Olaf shot under 40 percent only four times (0-4) last season.

Did You Know?

- St. Olaf closed the regular season by winning nine of its last 10, including a pair of overtime thrillers over Carleton College to regain control of the Goat Trophy.



ST. THOMAS | [Tommies' men's basketball home page](#) |

Head coach

- John Tauer (2nd season)

A Year Ago

- 16-4 MIAC (T-1st place) | 22-7 Overall

In the 2011-12 Postseason

- 2012 MIAC Playoff Champion - Defeated Bethel in semifinals (74-64), defeated Gustavus in championship (66-62 OT)
- 2012 NCAA Division III Playoffs - Defeated Claremont-Mudd-Scripps in first-round (76-74 OT), lost to UW-Whitewater in second round (62-91)

Top Returners

- Will DeBerg, SR, G, 2011-12: 12.9 ppg, 82% FT, 61 3FG
- Tommy Hannon, SR, C, Preseason All-America; Career: 67 games, 695 points, 387 rebounds
- John Nance, SR, F, 2011-12: All-MIAC, 11.8 ppg, 3.8 rpg, 2.9 apg

Key Losses

- Peter Leslie, Grad, G, Career: 44 3-pointers, 79% FT

By the Numbers

- 7: Different Tommies still on squad who played in March 2011 NCAA championship game
- 105: Victories for Tommie men's hoops over last four seasons, a Division III best
- 93: Points scored for UST in its Nov. 1 exhibition win at D-II No. 11-ranked Winona State (93-83), top-ranked team in Northern Sun Conference

Did You Know?

- Two coaches and five varsity players with Tommie basketball are graduates of Cretin-Derham Hall -- head coach John Tauer, assistant coach Mike Keating, seniors Tommy Hannon and John Nance, sophomore Kevin Hannon and freshmen Cortez Tillman and Taylor Montero

Off the Court

- Two members of the Tommies' 2010-11 national championship team, Alex Healy and Peter Leslie, are enrolled in St. Thomas' Law School