

2013-14 MIAC Men's Basketball Preview and Preseason Coaches' Poll

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2013-14 MIAC Men's Basketball Season Preview

ST. PAUL, Minn. -- The 2013-14 men's basketball season is about to tip off in the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (MIAC) and a similar question surrounds the league as the season begins: can anyone knock off defending conference champion St. Thomas?

A year ago, the Tommies finished 30-2 overall and 19-1 in the conference en route to both the MIAC's regular season and Playoff championships. Head Coach John Tauer and his team were ranked No. 1 in the nation for much of the season, and reached the NCAA Division III

Final Four for the second time in three years. This year, UST had similarly high expectations, but it graduated a ton of talent and a handful of top conference contenders feel this could be their chance to topple the Tommies.

One of those challengers is Augsburg, which returns a ton of talent from last season's 20-win team. The Auggies were 21-7 overall and 14-6 in MIAC play to finish third in the regular-season standings, and Augsburg was the runner-up to the Tommies in the MIAC Playoffs. Second-place Concordia was the only team to beat St. Thomas in the regular season a year ago, though the Cobbers graduated a lot of talent from last season's 18-8 team (15-5 MIAC).

Carleton finished fourth a year ago with an overall record of 16-11 and a conference mark of 12-8, and just a game back of the Knights there was a three-way tie for fifth to demonstrate the MIAC's parity. Bethel (15-11, 11-9 MIAC), Saint John's (12-14, 11-9 MIAC) and Gustavus (14-11, 11-9 MIAC) all shared fifth place, with the Royals and Johnnies holding tiebreaker criteria to grab the final two spots in the MIAC Playoff field. Those same teams hope to be gunning for the postseason, and title contention, again in 2013-14.

St. Olaf finished 9-16 overall and 8-12 in the MIAC a year ago, but most of the Oles' top talent is back to fuel optimism in Northfield. Hamline (8-17, 5-15) and Saint Mary's (4-21, 3-17) both enter the new season with optimism thanks to new head coaches hoping to lead a resurgence, and Macalester (4-21, 1-19 MIAC) also enters 2013-14 with thoughts of moving up the MIAC standings.

The season officially can begin Friday, with conference competition starting up early next month and really heating up after the holiday break. It should be another exciting and entertaining season in the gyms and arenas of the MIAC, with a lot of talent back, and plenty of new faces ready to burst onto the scene.

TOMMIES TOP PREDICTIONS AGAIN

After last season's dominant run, it's no surprise to learn the MIAC coaches expect St. Thomas to sit atop the conference standings again this season. The Tommies were the unanimous choice to claim the league title with 10 first-place votes and 100 points to top the 2013-14 MIAC Men's Basketball Preseason Coaches' Poll. Since coaches are not allowed to vote for their own team in the poll, St. Thomas received every possible point as it seeks its ninth-straight conference crown.

A talented returning lineup at Augsburg was solidly selected as the top challenger to St. Thomas' run at the top, as the Auggies were second with the other first-place vote and 91 points. The next trio of contenders was extremely close, with just four points separating three teams. Saint John's was picked third with 72 points, Gustavus had 70 points in fourth and St. Olaf received 69 points to round out the top five. Carleton finished with 52 points in the poll, as the coaches predict the Knights to claim the sixth and final spot in the MIAC Playoffs.

The league's coaches expect Hamline and Concordia to also be in the mix for postseason bids, as Hamline finished seventh in the poll with 46 points and Concordia was eight with 42 points. Bethel came in ninth with 31 points while Macalester (17) and Saint Mary's (15) finished out the final two spots in the standings.

COACHING MILESTONES AND COACHING CAROUSEL

There is certainly a mix of veterans and rookies among the MIAC men's basketball head coaches in 2013-14, highlighted by a pair of major coaching milestones. Saint John's Jim Smith embarks on his 50th season leading the Johnnies, and Carleton's Guy Kalland is beginning his 30th season on the Knights' bench. St. Olaf's Dan Kosmoski also hits a major milestone in 2013-14, as it's his 20th season leading the Oles.

There are several brand new faces around the league as well, as three teams made coaching changes in the offseason. Doug Novak replaces Jeff Westlund at Bethel after stints as an assistant at Tulane and The Citadel. Prior to that, Novak was the head coach at Division II Anderson University. Jim Hayes takes over at Hamline for Nelson Whitmore, and Hayes is no stranger to the MIAC. The Piper grad is back at his alma mater after serving as an assistant at Hamline, Carleton and St. Thomas. Saint Mary's also made a change, as Jamison Rusthoven takes over for Todd Landrum. Rusthoven is a St. Thomas grad and a few of his previous jobs included stints as an assistant at Hamline, Concordia-St. Paul and UW-Platteville.



WHO'S BACK?

The Tommies were forced to wave goodbye to stars such as Tommy Hannon, John Nance and Will DeBerg, All-MIAC players who helped UST reach two Final Fours and win a national title in 2010. However, Tauer's cupboard certainly isn't bare, and expectations are as high as ever. Point guard Erik Tengwall returns to run the show, and frontcourt players Zach Riedeman and Conner Nord appear ready to step into starring roles for St. Thomas.

Augsburg and Head Coach Aaron Griess may have the most proven talent back, starting with All-MIAC and All-Region center Dan Kornbaum who was top three in the MIAC in scoring, rebounds and blocked shots a year ago. Guard Parker Hines and sophomore forward Brett Rasmussen give the Auggies a nucleus that inspire title aspirations in Minneapolis.

Saint John's looks to move from Playoff contender to championship contender in Smith's milestone 50th season. Senior Seth Marx is back after an All-MIAC junior season, and he'll be counted on to lead, with a pair of sophomore talents - Mitchell Kuck and Alex Schmitt - ready for increased responsibilities after their successful collegiate debuts.

Gustavus graduated talented duo Ben Biewen and Jim Hill, but have upperclassmen who are ready to lead the team back into the Playoffs in Head Coach Mark Hanson's 24th season. Senior sharpshooter Jordan Dick is back, as are juniors Isaac Tapp and Martin Freddersen. The Oles return nearly all of their scoring from a year ago, starting with All-MIAC Honorable Mention duo Connor Gunderson and Sterling Nielsen. Guard Josh Pratt will team with Nielsen in the backcourt to bolster the Oles' hopes in Kosmoski's 20th season.

Carleton has the tough task of replacing stars Tom Sawatzke and Scott Theisen, but hopes are high in Kalland's 30th season with the Knights. Senior forward Taylor Hanson leads the returners, along with 2011-12 All-MIAC wing Shane McSparron and sophomore forward John Eckert. Hamline has high hopes for the first year of the Hayes era led by forward Dior Ford, who averaged nearly 14 points and five rebounds per game a year ago. Guard Tyler Pannell and forward Austin Johnson also return for the Pipers.

Concordia Head Coach Rich Glas has to replace all five starters from last year's runner-up team, but has a pair of players ready for expanded roles in sophomore forward Jordan Bolger and junior guard Ryan Rude. Novak's first season at Bethel comes after the graduation of MIAC Player-of-the-Year Taylor Hall, but All-MIAC forward Kyle Zimmerman and senior guards Quinn Gorski and Derek Wolhowe should help make for a smooth transition.

Macalester Head Coach Tim Whittle welcomes back Dylan Kilgour and his 12.6 points per game from a breakout freshman campaign a year ago, and the Scots also have sophomore guard Kyle Bernhard and junior forward Bert Yaffe back in the lineup. Saint Mary's tries to replace two-time All-MIAC pick Michael Burfeind, but junior guard Evan Pederson and sophomore forward Will Swiggum are back to lead the Cardinals in Rusthoven's rookie campaign.

CIRCLE THESE DATES

Fans don't have much longer to wait, as the 2013-14 campaign begins Friday. Five MIAC teams open their seasons Friday, two more start Saturday and another two begin Monday. The first few weeks will feature nonconference play, with MIAC play starting on Dec. 4. The regular season comes to an end Saturday, Feb. 22, with the MIAC Playoffs to take place the following week.

Fans don't have to wait long for big-time conference games, as St. Thomas travels to Augsburg for their first meeting on Dec. 4, with the Auggies returning the favor in St. Paul on Jan. 22. Another key series will be Saint John's vs. Gustavus, with the Gusties traveling to Collegeville on Dec. 11 and the Johnnies heading to St. Peter on Feb. 3.

The two Northfield rivals and MIAC Playoff hopefuls will square off when Carleton head across town to St. Olaf on Dec. 3, and the Knights will host the Oles on Jan. 22. Concordia will host Hamline in another matchup of teams trying to make the postseason on Dec. 14, with the Pipers hosting the Cobbers on the season's final day in a potential crucial matchup on Feb. 22.

Bethel, Macalester and Saint Mary's are all hoping for upward movement in the standings this season as well, and their matchups should be crucial to each team's hopes. Bethel hosts Macalester on Jan. 25 and welcomes Saint Mary's on Jan. 22. The Scots will host the Royals on Dec. 7 and the Cardinals on Feb. 3, and SMU will welcome Bethel to Winona on Dec. 4 and Macalester on Jan. 2.

A CLOSER LOOK

The rest of the 2013-14 MIAC Men's Basketball Preview contains complete results from the 2013-14 Preseason Coaches' Poll, MIAC Playoff details, helpful links and a preview for each team submitted by their sports information director. The new MIAC web site - www.miacathletics.com - will be an outstanding source for MIAC men's basketball news, schedules, scores, stats and more throughout the 2013-14 season.

Visit the [MIAC scoreboard](#) on game days to follow all the action, and download the [MIAC mobile app](#) to have all the information with you anywhere you travel. Also, connect to the conference on its [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [YouTube](#) pages for updates and interaction all season long.

2013-14 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.

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2013-14 MIAC Men's Basketball Preseason Coaches' Poll

Rank	Institution	Total
1	St. Thomas (10)	100
2	Augsburg (1)	91
3	Saint John's	72
4	Gustavus	70
5	St. Olaf	69
6	Carleton	52
7	Hamline	46
8	Concordia	42
9	Bethel	31
10	Macalester	17
11	Saint Mary's	15

2013-14 MIAC Men's Basketball Playoffs

The 2013-14 MIAC Playoffs will feature the top six teams in the conference standings playing in a high-seed-host, single-elimination postseason tournament. The two top seeds will receive a bye to the semifinal round, while the No. 3 seed will host the No. 6 seed, and the No. 4 seed will host the No. 5 seeds during the quarterfinals, which will be held Wednesday, Feb. 26. The top remaining seed will play at the No. 2 seed and the lowest remaining seed will play at the No. 1 seed during the semifinals, which are scheduled for Friday, Feb. 28. The championship game is set for Sunday, March 2, with the two semifinal winners meeting on home court of the top remaining seed. The winner will receive the MIAC's automatic bid to the 2013-14 NCAA Division III Men's Basketball Tournament.

| [MIAC Men's Basketball Playoffs Websites](#) | [2012-13](#) | [2013-14](#) |

MIAC Men's Basketball Links

| [2013-14 MIAC Schedule](#) | [2012-13 MIAC Statistics](#) | [MIAC Recordbook](#) | [MIAC Archives](#) |

Team-by-Team Previews

| [AUG](#) | [BU](#) | [CAR](#) | [CON](#) | [GAC](#) | [HU](#) | [MAC](#) | [SJU](#) | [SMU](#) | [STO](#) | [UST](#) |



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

Head coach

- Aaron Griess (Ninth season)

A Year Ago

- 14-6 MIAC (Third place) | 21-7 Overall

In the 2013 Postseason

- MIAC Playoffs: beat Saint John's 74-67 in quarterfinals; beat Concordia 74-67 in semifinals; lost to St. Thomas 92-65 in championship game.

Top Returners

- Dan Kornbaum (C, SR | All-MIAC 1st team, D3hoops.com All-West Region 2nd team and NABC All-West District 2nd team in 2012-13 ... Averaged 18.3 ppg (2nd in MIAC), 8.0 rpg (3rd in MIAC) and 1.4 bpg (3rd in MIAC).)
- Parker Hines (G, JR | All-MIAC Honorable Mention in 2012-13 ... Averaged 10.2 ppg, 4.39 apg (3rd in MIAC) and 1.3 steals per-game.)
- Brett Rasmussen (F, SO | All-MIAC First-Year Team and D3hoops.com West Region Rookie of the Year in 2012-13 ... Averaged 9.8 ppg and 4.9 rpg.)

Key Losses

- Tyler Schmidt (G| All-MIAC Honorable Mention in 2012-13, All-MIAC in 2011-12 ... Averaged 11.3 ppg (2nd on team) and 55 three-pointers made (1st on team) in 2012-13 ... Finished in top 30 in school history in scoring (849 points).)
- Eren Cur (F | Played in all 28 games... Averaged 3.9 ppg... Had 53 rebounds... Shot 53.8% from the field and 41.4% from behind the arc in 2012-13.)

By the Numbers

- 9: Wins in a row to start out the 2012-2013 season.
- 48.0: percent shooting from the field was 3rd in the MIAC in 2012-2013.

- 5: The number of returning Augsburg players that averaged more than 20 minutes per-game last season.

Did You Know?

- The Auggies kicked off the 2013-14 season with two DII scrimmages -- Minnesota State University Moorhead and Minnesota State University Mankato.

Off the Court

- The Augsburg men's basketball team participates in a Clean Minneapolis program, adopting a few blocks in need of care near campus. Members of the team participated in a massive cleanup, collecting more than 50 bags of litter, prior to the Augsburg football team's home opener against Gustavus.



BETHEL | [Royals' men's basketball home page](#) |

Head coach

- Doug Novak (First season)

A Year Ago

- 11-9 MIAC (T-5th place) | 15-11 Overall

In the 2013 Postseason

- 43-48 loss in opening round of MIAC Playoffs to Carleton College

Top Returners

- Kyle Zimmerman (Forward, Sr. | 2013 All-MIAC, 2012 MIAC Honorable Mention, 13.8 PPG, 8.5 RPG, 1.9 APG, 1.3 BPG, 1.4 SPG, 58.2 FG%, 71.1 FT%)
- Quinn Gorksi (Guard, Sr. | 6.5 PPG, 2.5 RPG, 2.7 APG, 1.5 SPG, 85.7 FT%)
- Derek Wolhowe (Guard, Sr. | 6.0 PPG, 2.5 RPG, 48.0 FG%, 90.5 FT%)

Key Losses

- Taylor Hall (Forward | NABC All-American, D3hoops.com West Region Player of the Year, 2013 MIAC Joe Hutton Most Valuable Player, Two-time All MIAC, 21.7 PPG, 10.0 RPG, 3.0 APG, 1.7 BPG, 56.7 FG%, 72.7 FT%)
- JD Robinson (Forward | 2013 MIAC All-Conference Honorable Mention, 8.9 PPG, 2.4 RPG, 1.3 APG, 36.3 3PT%, 37.3 FG%)
- Bjorn Westlund (Guard | 4.5 PPG, 1.1 APG, 38.4 FG%, 37.5 3PT%)

By the Numbers

- 22: Bethel's head basketball coach Doug Novak enters his first year on the Royal's bench, but Novak is no beginner to coaching. The Brandon, S.D., native enters his 22nd year coaching, including 10 years as a head coach. His previous stops have been at Tulane, The Citadel, Francis Marion, Roane State, Anderson, and Iowa Western.
- 2: Following the 2012-13 season, forward Taylor Hall received two All-American awards. Hall was honored to the National Association of Basketball Coaches Association (NABC) All-American Second Team and also the D3hoops.com Second Team. In addition, Hall was named D3hoops.com West Region Player of the Year as well as the MIAC Joe Hutton Most Valuable Player.
- 4.4: Part of the Royals success in 2012-13 came from its strong defensive effort, as Bethel paced the conference in blocks per game and opponents field goal percentage. BU averaged 4.4 blocks per game, while holding opposing teams to just 42 percent shooting throughout the 26 games played one year ago.

Did You Know?

- Bethel's trip to the 2013 MIAC Playoffs marked the 12th time in the last 14 years that the Royals have advanced to the conference postseason. The Royals have logged a 7-11 record in that time span with two trips to the MIAC Championship game. Only two other teams within the league have been to the conference playoffs more since 1999.

Off the Court

- Four members of the Royals men's basketball team earned MIAC Academic All-Conference accolades following the 2012-13 campaign. In order to receive this honor, players must play in 50 percent of the games and record a GPA of 3.5 or higher. Quinn Gorski, Bjorn Westlund, Derek Wolhowe, and Kyle Zimmerman all received the award..



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

Head coach

- Guy Kalland (30th season)

A Year Ago

- 12-8 MIAC (Fourth place) | 16-11 overall

In the 2013 Postseason

- Beat Bethel, 48-43, in quarterfinals of MIAC Playoffs
- Lost to St. Thomas, 70-57, in semifinals of MIAC Playoffs

Top Returners

- Taylor Hanson- (Forward, Sr. | 9.4 ppg, .535 FG%, 5.8 rpg, 21 steals in 2012-13)

- Shane McSparron- (Wing, Jr. | 2011-12 MIAC All-First-Year Team, 12.1 ppg with .524 FG% in 2012-13)
- John Eckert- (Forward, So. | 6.5 ppg, .496 FG%, 6.5 rpg, team-best 25 blocks in 2012-13)

Key Losses

- Tom Sawatzke- (Guard | First Team All-MIAC in 2011-12 and 2012-13; 1,155 career pts; 17.9 ppg in 2012-13 and 15th in nation with 3.0 three-pointers per game)
- Scott Theisen- (Wing| D3hoops.com All-West Region First Team and First Team All-MIAC in 2013; 17.1 ppg, 7.4 rpg, 5.6 apg, 2.2 spg; 1,100 career pts)
- Tyler Goetz- (Wing| 7.1 ppg with 48 3FG made in 2013, All-MIAC Sportsmanship Team in 2013)

By the Numbers

- 162 of 164: During the 2012-13 season, the three seniors on the roster— Tom Sawatzke, Scott Theisen, and Ty Goetz—accounted for 162 of the Knights' 164 made three-pointers. The only two returners who made a three-point attempt last year are Taylor Hanson and Patrick England, both making just one.
- 2.5: Taylor Hanson finished the 2012-13 season with 75 assists and only 30 turnovers, good for a 2.5 assist-to-turnover ratio, which finished 17th in all of DIII. There were times last season where Hanson not only lead DIII, but all of the NCAA in that statistical category.
- 11.7: One thing that the Carleton Knights are known for is their defensive discipline. Last season, the Knights only committed 11.7 fouls per game, which lead all three NCAA divisions last year. This is not a surprising statistic. The Knights have lead DIII in six of the last eight seasons and have been in the top five in all eighth of those seasons.

Did You Know?

- The Knights have reached the MIAC playoffs in 11 of the past 12 past seasons.

Off the Court

- Last year the Knights had two academic All-Conference players in Economics majors Scott Theisen and returner Taylor Hanson.



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

Head coach

- Rich Glas (6th season)

A Year Ago

- 15-5 MIAC (2nd place) | 18-8 Overall

In the 2013 Postseason

- Lost to Augsburg 74-67 in the MIAC Semifinals

Top Returners

- Jordan Bolger (F, So. | 4th on the team in field goal pct. in 2012-13; averaged 4.5 ppg in 2012-13)
- Ryan Rude (G, Jr. | 2nd on the team in 3-point fg pct. In 2012-13; averaged 2.9 ppg)

Key Losses

- Ebo Nana-Kweson (F | 2012-13 All-MIAC; led the team in scoring (13.6 ppg) and rebounding (5.7rpg) in 2012-13)
- Andrew Martinson (G | 2012-13 MIAC 6th Man of the Year; school record holder in career 3-point field goals; 2nd on the team in scoring in 2012-13 (11.6 ppg)
- Aaron Lindahl (G | 2012-13 All-MIAC; 3rd on the team in scoring in 2012-13 (10.9 ppg))

By the Numbers

- 0: The number of returning starters for the Cobbers
- 7: Concordia lost its top seven scorers from the 2012-12 team that finished second in the MIAC
- 18: Concordia's 18 overall wins in 2012-13 were the most by a Cobber men's basketball team since the 1995-96 season

Did You Know?

- Cobber sophomore Brady Syverson only has eight toes. Syverson lost two toes in a lawn mowing accident and almost couldn't play basketball because of the injury.



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

Head coach

- Mark Hanson (24th season)

A Year Ago

- 11-9 MIAC (T-5th place) | 14-11 Overall

Top Returners

- Jordan Dick (Sr., W | started in all 24 games last season, led the team with 28.8 minutes per game, averaged 7.4 points and 3.5 rebounds, shot 49.3 percent (67-136) from the field, 45.3 percent (29-64) from three-point range (3rd/MIAC) and 83.3 percent (15-18) from the free throw line)
- Isaac Tapp (Jr., G | started all 24 games last season, averaged 7.7 points per game (4th/team), shot 51.7 percent (77-149) from the

floor, second on the team in assists with 51)

- Martin Feddersen (Jr., W | played in 18 games last season, averaged 18 minutes per game off the bench, second on the team in steals with 27, third on the team in assists with 41)

Key Losses

- Ben Biewen (G | 2012-13 All-MIAC, started all 24 games last season (28.5 mpg), averaged 14.6 points (7th/MIAC), 3.8 rebounds (2nd/team), 3.4 assists (6th/MIAC), and 1.9 steals (5th/MIAC) per game, shot 51.6 percent (114-221) from the field and 85.1 percent (97-114) from the free throw line (3rd/MIAC))
- Jim Hill (W | 2012-13 All-MIAC, started all 24 games last year (28 mpg), averaged 15.6 points (6th/MIAC) and 4.6 rebounds (1st/team), 48.3 percent (140-290) shooter from the floor)
- Blake Shay (P | averaged 9.7 points (3rd/team) per game last season, shot 45.2 percent (89-197) from the field, started seven games)

By the Numbers

- .651: The percentage of scoring from last season that Gustavus lost to graduation. The Gusties return less than half of their scoring from the previous year for the second consecutive campaign after losing 65 percent of their scoring from 2011-12 heading into last season.
- 1: The number of players on this year's roster that are not from Minnesota. With a 15-man roster, 14 players hail from the Land of 10,000 Lakes. The lone player that resides outside of the gopher state is sophomore Scott Mulder, who is from Sioux Falls, S.D.
- 12: The number of consecutive MIAC Playoff appearances Gustavus had made prior to last season. The Gusties snapped a 12-year playoff streak when they were knocked out of playoff contention on the final day of the season last February. Gustavus will look to begin a new streak with a showing in the MIAC Playoffs this season.

Did You Know?

- Jordan Dick is the lone senior on this year's roster. The last time the Gusties had only one senior was the 2004-05 season when they went 22-6 overall and 18-2 in the MIAC to win both the conference regular season and playoff titles. After starting that season 4-5, Gustavus went on to rattle off 18 straight wins that would stretch all the way through the MIAC Playoff Championship game before losing to Lawrence in the first round of the NCAA Tournament.

Off the Court

- In late September, the Gustavus Athletic Department teamed up with Special Olympics of Minnesota to host its first Unified Flag Football Tournament. Over 80 Gustavus student-athletes, including many members of the men's basketball team, were in charge of handling the operations of the tournament. Gusties from across the entire athletic department served as referees, down markers, scoreboard operators, timekeepers, announcers, concession stand attendees, and fans. Those not directly involved with the game cheered and showed their support with signs posted throughout the stadium.



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

Head coach

- Jim Hayes (First season)

A Year Ago

- 5-15 MIAC (Ninth place) | 8-17 overall

Top Returners

- Dior Ford (F, Jr., | 13.5 ppg, 4.8 rebounds per game in 2012-13)
- Tyler Pannell (G, Sr., | 8.3 ppg, 83.3 FT percentage in 2012-13)
- Austin Johnson (F, Jr., | 7.3 ppg, 3.7 rebounds per game in 2012-13)

Key Losses

- Noah Aguirre (F)
- Wes Pinera (G)
- Victor Easter (G)

Did You Know?

- Hamline played in the oldest basketball arena in the MIAC. Dubbed "The Birthplace of College Basketball," Hutton Arena is 76 years old, and is one of the few Division III facilities to ever host an NBA game. The Lakers played two games in Hutton Arena in the 1950s.

Full Hamline preview coming soon.

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



Head coach

- Tim Whittle (5th season)

A Year Ago

- 1-19 MIAC (11th place) | 4-21 Overall

Top Returners

- Dylan Kilgour (G, So. | 12.6 ppg., 2.6 apg,)
- Kyle Bernhard (G, So. | 6.4 ppg.)

- Bert Yaffe (F, Jr. | 6.3 ppg., 2.6 rpg.)

Key Losses

- Sam Marshall (F | honorable mention All-MIAC twice, 12.7 ppg., 6.3 rpg.)

By the Numbers

- 14: Fourteen members of Macalester's 17 players on the roster are freshmen or sophomores.
- 1: Dylan Kilgour ranked No. 1 among all frosh in conference play in scoring (12.6), assists (2.6), three-point accuracy (39.6%) and three-pointers made (2.3), and was Macalester's leading point-producer in seven conference games.

Did You Know?

- Macalester guard Dylan Kilgour was selected to play on the USA D-3 basketball team last summer in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Off the Court

- Macalester's men's basketball team was presented with the inaugural National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC) Team Academic Excellence Award last summer, as created by the NABC Committee on Academics. To be eligible for the honor, a team must submit the academic grades of each player of the team and carry a team grade point average of 3.00 or higher. The Scots were one of three MIAC teams to earn to honor.

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



Head Coach

- Jim Smith (50th season)

A Year Ago

- 11-9 MIAC (T-5th place) | 12-14 Overall

In the 2013 Postseason

- MIAC postseason results (Quarterfinals – lost to Augsburg, 67-74)

Top Returners

- Seth Marx (Sr., W, 6-5, 215 | All-MIAC first team; led SJU in scoring (12.1 ppg.), rebounding (6.2 rpg.), minutes played (28.8 mpg.), three-pointers (63), blocked shots (20) and double-doubles (4); enters the 2013-14 season tied for eighth in school history with 126 three-pointers)
- Mitchell Kuck (So., W, 6-2, 160 | Named to five-man MIAC All-Rookie team; tied for the team-lead in steals (24), finished second in scoring (10.7 ppg.), assists (56) and three-pointers (25); finished second in the conference among freshmen with an average of 11.6 points per game in conference play; first Johnnie named to the All-Rookie team since Andy Burns in 2008-09)
- Alex Schmitt (So., G, 5-10, 165 | Finished fourth on the team in scoring (7.2 ppg.) despite not starting a game for the Johnnies; led the team with a .465 three-point shooting percentage; averaged 12.0 ppg. with a .542 three-point percentage in the Johnnies' final nine games)

Key Losses

- Chris Neumann (W/P, 6-5, 200 | All-MIAC honorable mention; led the MIAC with a .676 shooting percentage in conference play; tied for the team-lead in steals with 24)
- Chris Orgas (P, 6-8, 250 | Third on the team in rebounds (84) and blocked shots (15); started 10 career games)
- Sam Dittberner (G, 6-0, 185 | Third on the team in assists with 39)

By the Numbers

- 50: The 2013-14 season is the 50th of Jim Smith's coaching career at SJU. With 755 career wins (755-535 career record), Smith is the winningest basketball coach in Minnesota collegiate basketball history. Smith has led SJU to seven MIAC titles, five MIAC playoff titles, and eight trips to the NCAA Division III playoffs, including an appearance by the Johnnies in the 2000, 2001 and 2007 NCAA tournaments. Smith is a six-time MIAC Coach of the Year, most recently in 2000-01.
- 40: The Johnnies celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Warner Palaestra in 2013-14. The first game played in the Palaestra, now Sexton Arena, was a 67-58 win over St. Cloud State on Dec. 9, 1973. SJU boasts a 356-122 (.745) record in the building.
- 27.7%: Four freshmen accounted for 501 points, or 27.7 percent, of the Johnnies' total last season: Mitchell Kuck, Alex Schmitt, Trevor O'Brien and Joe Risinger. They look to make an even bigger impact this year with that year of experience under their belt.

Did You Know?

- SJU and St. Olaf are the only MIAC schools that returns at least eight of their top nine scorers from last season in 2013-14.

Off the Court

- The Johnnies tied with Trinity (Texas) for the most National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC) Honors Court honorees in NCAA Division III with eight over the summer. To be eligible for this distinction, student-athletes must be a junior or senior academically, a varsity player during the 2012-13 season, boast a 3.2 GPA or higher at the conclusion of the academic year, and have spent at least one full year at the current institution.

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

Head coach



- Jamison Rusthoven (First season)

A Year Ago

- 3-17 MIAC (10th place) | 4-21 Overall

Top Returners

- Evan Pederson (5-8, 140, Jr., G | 21 GP, 11.6 ppg, 18 3FG, 93 Assists, 26 Steals, 2011-12 MIAC All-First Year Team)
- Will Swiggum (6-5, 180, So., F | 25 GP – only Cardinal to play all 25 games in 2012-13; 79 FG, 178 Rebounds (7.1 rpg), 10.0 ppg; 2012-13 MIAC All-First Year Team)

Key Losses

- Michael Burfeind (22 GP, 15.9 ppg, 3.7 rpg, 10 Blocks, 31 Assists, 1,058 career point – 24th all-time, 48 double-figure performances; 2-time First-Team All-MIAC)
- Tom Gores (24 GP, 4.6 ppg, 3.8 rpg, 60 Assists, 33 Steals)

By The Numbers

- 24: Will Swiggum (St. Charles, Minn.), who scored in double figures 13 times last season, netted a career-high 24 points against Augsburg on Jan. 19, and followed that up with a 23-point effort against Hamline two days later. The 24- and 23-point games marked the first two times in his collegiate career that Swiggum has eclipsed the 20-point barrier.
- 30: As a team, the Cardinals knocked down a season-high 30 free throws on 36 attempts vs. Hamline on Jan. 21 — including a 24-for-28 effort in the second half.
- 93: Evan Pederson (Onalaska, Wis.) dished out 93 assists for the season — the most since the 2001-02 season, when Lance Larson recorded 94 assists. Pederson recorded a career-best nine assists twice last season.

Did You Know?

- First-year head coach Jamison Rusthoven, a MIAC alum, becomes the first African-American head coach in MIAC history.

Off The Court

- The Cardinals are active in the community, but the most prominent activity is the Saint Mary's Buddies program. The Buddies program is a group of 15 - 18 developmentally disabled adults who are passionate about playing basketball. The SMU players and coaches spend time teaching and working with these special players. Several of the Buddies are regulars at the SMU basketball games.



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

Head coach

- Dan Kosmoski (20th season)

A Year Ago

- 8-12 MIAC (Eighth place) | 9-16 Overall

Top Returners

- Connor Gunderson (F, Sr. | 12.9 ppg, 4.4 rpg in 2012-13... Was All-MIAC honorable mention... 69 career starts in 73 games)
- Sterling Nielsen (G, Jr. | 12.5 ppg, 3.1 assists/game, was All-MIAC honorable mention)
- Josh Pratt (G, Sr. | 9.2 ppg in 2013-14... Was 35-of-86 from 3-point range)

By the Numbers

- 1,788/1,790: St. Olaf returns all but two points from its 2012-13 season. The Oles' Connor Gunderson (12.9 ppg) and Sterling Nielsen (12.5 ppg) lead the way, as each were All-MIAC honorable mention.
- 31.4: Only Nielsen (31.4 minutes/game) played more than 30 minutes a night for the Oles in 2012-13. St. Olaf had eight players average at least 14 minutes and 5.0 points/game.
- 56.2: Gunderson has made 56.2 percent of his field goal attempts in his career, which is the best at St. Olaf in at least 20 seasons. The Austin, Minn.-native ranked ninth in the MIAC last season.

Did You Know?

- St. Olaf has eight seniors on the roster, who have a combined 455 games under their belt.



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

Head coach

- John Tauer (Third season)

A Year Ago

- 19-1 MIAC (First^t place) | 30-2 Overall

In the 2012-13 Postseason

- In MIAC playoffs def. Carleton (70-57) and Augsburg (92-65); In NCAA playoffs def. Aurora (91-62), Wheaton (68-58), Calvin (63-62), Williams (82-79) and lost to Mary Hardin-Baylor (74-67)

Top Returners

- Erik Tengwall (SR, PG, 6-1); 3-to-1 assist/turnover ratio in 2012-13, 59 starts the last two seasons
- Zach Riedeman (SR, F, 6-4/Career: 84 games, 609 points);
- Conner Nord (JR, C, 6-7/Career: 61 games, 430 points, 352 rebounds)

Key Losses

- Tommy Hannon (Grad. D/HM All-America/101 career games, 1,061 points, 606 rebounds)
- John Nance (Grad. D/2X All-MIAC/116 career games, 867 points, 129 steals)
- Will DeBerg (Grad. D/2X All-MIAC/Career: 904 points; In 59 games last two seasons made 140 3-pointers at a 42% clip)

By the Numbers

- 82-12: Tommie senior class won-loss record to date, with two Final Four trips
- 7: Number of returning Tommies who averaged 10 or more minutes a game last season.
- .524 and .433: Tommies' field-goal and 3-point field goal percentage last season, both school record.

Did You Know?

- After a nine-week run last winter at No. 1, St. Thomas is ranked No. 15 in the preseason by D3hoops.com. The Tommies made conference history last winter as the first program in 90 years to win or share eight consecutive regular-season championships in men's hoops.

Off the Court

- John Tauer starts his 18th season affiliated with Tommie men's hoops as a player, assistant and head coach. An NCAA Postgraduate Scholar and Academic All-American, Tauer, who earned master's and PhD degrees in Social Psychology at UW-Madison, is also a tenured member of the UST faculty and one of the few head college basketball coaches in the nation who also has a doctorate in sport-related psychology. Tauer studies factors that affect academic and athletic motivation.

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