

2014-15 MIAC Men's Basketball Preview and Preseason Coaches' Poll

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2014-15 MIAC Men's Basketball Season Preview

BLOOMINGTON, Minn. -- As the 2014-15 Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (MIAC) Men's Basketball season gets set to tip off, the conference's magic number this season will be 10. Either the University of St. Thomas will win an incredible 10th-straight MIAC championship, or one of the other 10 teams will finally unseat the Tommies at the top.

With an exceptionally deep and strong group of challengers back, there's legitimate hope around the conference that someone other than St. Thomas is hoisting the MIAC trophy at the end of the regular season. Part of that hope comes from last season's MIAC Playoffs, where St. Olaf knocked off the Tommies in the title game to earn its first-ever MIAC postseason title and NCAA bid.

Gustavus and Bethel also returns strong teams and familiar faces Saint John's and Augsburg also hope to have a say in the race for the title, and improved teams at Carleton, Hamline, Macalester and Saint Mary's all aspire for bigger things in 2014-15, and the battle for the MIAC title and six MIAC Playoff bid truly appears to be wide open as the new season draws near.

However, to be the best, you still have to beat the best, and St. Thomas has plenty of reasons to feel good about MIAC title No. 10 in a row. Head Coach John Tauer's team was 22-6 overall last year and 18-2 in league play to claim their ninth-straight championship, and the Tommies reached the MIAC Playoff championship game and received an at-large bid to the NCAA Division III Tournament, and it is still just a year removed from a trip to the Final Four.

St. Olaf broke through for its first MIAC Playoff title in Head Coach Dan Kosmoski's 20th season with a 22-6 overall record and a 17-3 MIAC mark to finish just a game behind the Tommies. Augsburg (18-8, 14-6 MIAC) grabbed third by a game over (Gustavus (17-10, 13-7 MIAC) and Saint John's (15-11, 13-7 MIAC), and all three return with high hopes of Playoff and title contention in 2014-15. Bethel (14-13, 9-11 MIAC) impressed in the first year under Head Coach Doug Novak, especially in a MIAC Playoff quarterfinal win as the No. 6 seed.

Concordia (12-13, 8-12 MIAC) has nearly everyone back and hopes for a return to the postseason in 2014-15. Hamline (9-16 overall, 6-14 MIAC) showed some solid flashes in Head Coach Jim Hayes' first season and has a lot to build on. Macalester (3-17, 4-21 MIAC) and Saint Mary's (3-22, 2-18) also showed bright spots last season, and appear to be trending in the right direction.

The 2014-15 season tips off with nonconference action Saturday, so fans don't have to wait long for a first glimpse at this year's product. With so much returning talent and so many teams with high expectations, the 20-game conference schedule should feature countless marquee matchups night-in and night-out, and with such good basketball about to begin, the Minnesota winter suddenly doesn't seem so long.

COACHES CALL FOR TOMMIES' 10TH TITLE

According to the MIAC men's basketball coaches, St. Thomas will indeed complete a decade of dominance and claim its 10th-straight MIAC title this season. The Tommies finished atop the 2014-15 MIAC Men's Basketball Preseason Coaches' Poll with eight of the 11 first-place votes and 98 total points, but the ballots also show that there is a crowded field of contenders all vying to take St. Thomas off the top line.

Two of the next three teams in the poll received first-place votes and the trio was separated by a total of just six points. Gustavus received 81 points and one first-place vote to finish second in the rankings, while Bethel (76 points) edged St. Olaf (75 points) for third, although the Oles grabbed the other two first-place votes, showing that the MIAC coaches think any of the top four could claim the title this season.

Saint John's was also predicted to return to the MIAC Playoffs with 67 points, just eight behind St. Olaf, and the coaches picked Concordia (54 points) to edge Augsburg (51 points) in a narrow battle for the sixth and final postseason bid. The MIAC coaches also had Carleton (38 points) sneaking past Hamline (36 points) for eighth, and Macalester (18 points) and Saint Mary's (11 points) grabbing the final two spots.

COACHING STABILITY

After a fourth of the league changed coaches a year ago, it was all quiet on the coaching front during the offseason as all 11 head coaches return in 2014-15. In addition, the MIAC returns some of the longest-tenured coaches in all of Division III, led by Saint John's Jim Smith, who is entering his amazing 51st season in Collegeville. Carleton's Guy Kalland (32nd season), Gustavus' Mark Hanson (25th season), St. Olaf's Kosmoski (21st season) and Augsburg's Aaron Griess (10th season) add to the MIAC's impressive list of veteran coaches.

Bethel's Novak, Hamline's Hayes and Saint Mary's Jamison Rusthoven all enter their season after making impressive debuts a year ago. Concordia's Rich Glas (also the Cobbers' Athletic Director) enters his seventh season as the team's head coach, Macalester's Tim Whittle is in season No. 6 with the Scots and St. Thomas' Tauer will aim for his fourth-straight MIAC title in as many seasons, giving him an incredible start to his head coaching career.



WHO TO WATCH FOR

If the Tommies are to get title No. 10, they'll rely on a trio of upperclassmen for both production and leadership. The team graduated All-MIAC selections Zach Riedeman (F) and Erik Tengwall (G), but welcome back senior All-MIAC center Conner Nord and senior guard Marcus Alipate, as well as junior forward Taylor Montero. Tauer's team always seems to have the next wave of talent waiting in the wings as well, evidenced by the nine-straight MIAC championships.

Gustavus has three frontcourt players back who earned MIAC honors last season, despite the loss of All-MIAC guard Jordan Dick and an injury to talented center Brian Jacobs. The Gusties should be one of the league's best teams in the paint, as junior forward Brody Ziegler was an All-MIAC selection last season, senior forward Martin Feddersen was an Honorable Mention pick and sophomore center Peter Kruize earned a spot on the All-Freshman Team.

The Royals were good a season ago, and could be even better this year with the return of injured All-MIAC star Kyle Zimmerman, and the continued improvement of guard Bryce Wojta, who was an All-MIAC and All-Freshman pick last season. Guard Trevor Hall is also back for Bethel, which hopes to build on last year's postseason success. Speaking of postseason success, the MIAC Playoff champion Oles may have graduated star Connor Gunderson, but hopes are high for another trip to the NCAA tournament thanks to the return of a standout backcourt tandem. All-MIAC and All-Defensive Team honoree Sterling Nielsen and All-MIAC Honorable Mention selection Justin Pahl are both back to hopefully lead the Oles back into title contention.

Saint John's will have to replace some talented graduates, but has a balanced group back with junior wing Mitchell Kuck, senior post Blake Maslonkowski, and the MIAC's Sixth Man-of-the-Year, Alex Schmitt, presumably headed for a larger role this season. The Cobbers bring back all of their key parts, starting with All-MIAC forward Jordan Bolger. Sharpshooters Brandon Giese and Tom Fraase are also back to bolster the expectations in Moorhead.

Augsburg has the daunting task of replacing MIAC Player-of-the-Year Dan Kornbaum in the post and two other All-MIAC graduates in Andy Seidlitz and Noah Veach, but guard Parker Hines and talented forwards Brett Rasmussen and Joey Sonnenfeld are both back in Minneapolis. Carleton also graduated its top player in All-MIAC forward Taylor Hanson, but senior guard Shane McSparron will be back to lead the Knights, and hopes are high for sophomores Tianen Chen and Peter Bakker-Arkema to take another step forward this season.

All-MIAC forward Dior Ford is back to lead Hamline this season, and he'll be joined in a potent Piper frontcourt by fellow seniors Austin Johnson and Bennett Cooper. Macalester has some great building blocks in junior All-MIAC Honorable Mention guard Dylan Kilgour and All-Rookie Team center Kareem Ismail,. Saint Mary's Will Swiggum returns after earning All-Conference Honorable Mention honors last season, and he'll team with sophomore forward Wylie Ferron, who started all 25 games as a rookie.

CIRCLE THESE DATES

Fortunately for MIAC basketball fans, action is right around the corner, as the season tips off Saturday with eight of the league's teams in action on opening day and a ninth starting its season Sunday. All 11 MIAC teams will open with nonconference action, leading up to the start of conference play.

MIAC play will officially begin on Wednesday, Dec. 3, with four full dates of conference play prior to the semester and Holiday break. Then, the action really heats up once the calendar flips to 2015. MIAC play resumes on Jan. 3 and will run through Saturday, Feb. 21. The MIAC Playoffs will follow on Feb. 25, 27 and March 1, and the NCAA Tournament will begin the following weekend.

A CLOSER LOOK

The rest of the 2014-15 MIAC Men's Basketball Preview contains complete results from the 2014-15 Preseason Coaches' Poll, MIAC Playoff details, helpful links and a preview for each team submitted by their sports information director. The MIAC web site - www.miacathletics.com - will be an outstanding source for MIAC men's basketball news, schedules, scores, stats and more throughout the 2014-15 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.

2014-15 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.

2014-15 MIAC Men's Basketball Preseason Coaches' Poll

Rank	Institution	Total
1	St. Thomas (8)	98
2	Gustavus (1)	81
3	Bethel	76
4	St. Olaf (2)	75
5	Saint John's	67

6	Concordia	54
7	Augsburg	51
8	Carleton	38
9	Hamline	36
10	Macalester	18
11	Saint Mary's	11

2014-15 MIAC Men's Basketball Playoffs

The 2014-15 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. 25. 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. 27. The championship game is set for Sunday, March 1, 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 2014-15 NCAA Division III Men's Basketball Tournament.

| [MIAC Men's Basketball Playoffs Websites](#) | [2013-14](#) | [2014-15](#) |

MIAC Men's Basketball Links

| [Website](#) | [Standings](#) | [Schedule](#) | [Statistics](#) | [News](#) | [Recordbook](#) | [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 (10th season)

A Year Ago

- 14-6 MIAC (3rd place) | 18-8 Overall

In the 2014 Postseason

- Lost 70-67 to Bethel in the MIAC Quarterfinals

Top Returners

- Parker Hines (Guard, Senior, | All-MIAC Honorable mention 2012-13 and 2013-14, All-MIAC First Year Team 2010-11, Last season averaged 7.6 ppg, lead the team in assists (102) and steals (23).
- Brett Rasmussen (Forward, Sophomore | 2012-13 West Region Rookie of the Year, Averaged 9.8 ppg and 4.9 rpg in 2012-13)
- Joey Sonnenfeld (Forward, Sophomore | Averaged 5.1 ppg, returns a team-high 56.8 field goal percentage)

Key Losses

- Dan Kornbaum (Post | 2013-14 MIAC Player of the Year, 2013-14 All-American, 2x All-MIAC, All-MIAC Sportsmanship Team, Averaged 19.3 ppg and 7.9 rpg, 43 blocks, .667 field goal percentage)
- Andy Seidlitz (Guard | All-MIAC, Averaged 18.4 ppg, 3.5 rpg, 75 assists, 20 steals, led the team in 3-pointers (62), 53.1 percent field goal percentage)
- Noah Veach (Forward | All-MIAC, 2x All-MIAC Defensive Team, 15.4 ppg, 4.6 rpg, .781 free throw percentage, .547 field goal percentage)

By the Numbers

- 53.1: The combined scoring average lost to the graduations of Dan Kornbaum, Andy Seidlitz and Noah Veach.
- 344: The number of career assists for point guard Parker Hines, who currently ranks second all-time on the Augsburg career list.
- 5: Augsburg has made the MIAC playoffs five of the last six years, reaching the playoff championship game in 2012-13.

Did You Know?

- Forward Joey Sonnenfeld is currently the leading receiver for the Augsburg football team averaging 98.3 receiving yards per game. A health and physical education major with a 3.34 grade-point average, he was named to the Capital One Academic All-District football team this fall.

Off the Court

- Senior Parker Hines was selected to attend the 2014 NCAA Career in Sports Forum, held June 5-8 in Indianapolis. Hines is looking to pursue a career in coaching.



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

Head coach

- Doug Novak (Second season)

A Year Ago

- 9-11 MIAC (6th place) | 14-13 Overall

In the 2014 Postseason

- MIAC Quarterfinals: Bethel 70, Augsburg 67
- MIAC Semifinals: Bethel 59, St. Thomas 74

Top Returners

- Kyle Zimmermann (F, Sr. | 2013 All-MIAC, 12.6 PPG, 8.9 RPG, 25.0 Min./G, 21 Blocks, FG%: 60.6)
- Bryce Wojta (G, So. | 2014 All-MIAC, 2014 MIAC All-Freshman Team, 15.0 PPG, 3.4 APG, 3.0 RPG, 1.9 SPG, FG%: 45.7)
- Trevor Hall (G, So. | 6.2 PPG, 2.6 RPG, 1.7 APG, 27 GP, FG%: 39.6, 21.9 Min./G)

Key Losses

- Luke Battenhoff (F | 2014 MIAC All-Conference Honorable Mention, 11.7 PPG, 5.4 RPG, 23.7 Min./G, FG%: 59.3)
- Tyler Schmidt (G | 4.8 PPG, 1.2 RPG, 1.2 APG, 16.6 Min./G, 3PT%: 40.0, FG%: 40.2)
- Quinn Gorski (G | 4.3 PPG, 1.8 RPG, 1.3 APG, 17.9 Min./G, FG%: 50.0, 3PT%: 44.8)

By the Numbers

- 13: Bethel has reached the MIAC Playoffs 13 of the last 15 years, dating back to the 1999-2000 season. Only two other teams within the league have accomplished this feat.
- 1: Brycen Wojta was the only freshman in the league last year honored to the MIAC All-Conference Team. Wojta is the first rookie in the league to receive All-MIAC recognition since 2005-06 and just the second since 1995-96.
- 8.2: Bethel's defense averaged 8.2 steals per game last season, which was among the top 18 percent of teams nationwide and was No. 1 among all MIAC institutions.

Did You Know?

- 2013 All-MIAC forward Kyle Zimmermann will return for a fifth season thanks to the NCAA's medical redshirt rule that grants a player one more year of eligibility should a player get hurt and miss the majority of the season. Zimmermann is one of three players on the Bethel roster to receive this opportunity.

Off the Court

- 2014 graduate Luke Battenhoff spent the past summer in Montego Bay, Jamaica, where he lived at and served with Robin's Nest Children's Home—a local orphanage in Montego Bay. While there, Battenhoff spent the majority of his time doing maintenance projects, such as welding protective bars for the windows, and caring for this kids on site.



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

Head coach

- Guy Kalland (32nd season)

A Year Ago

- 7-13 MIAC (8th place) | 9-16 Overall

Top Returners

- Shane McSparron (Guard, Sr. | 10.4 ppg in 19 games in 2013-14; three-year starter)
- Tianen Chen (Forward, So. | 2013-14 MIAC All-Freshman Team, 10.1 ppg as a sixth man)
- Peter Bakker-Arkema (Guard, So. | 8.8 ppg, 3.8 rpg, led team in 3-pt percentage at .383)

Key Losses

- Taylor Hanson (Forward | D3hoops.com All-West Region third team, All-MIAC team, All-Defensive team, 15.5 PPG, 9.2 rebounds/game, 3.9 assists/game)

By the Numbers

- 12:04: Carleton committed only 12.04 fouls per game last season, which was the best figure among all NCAA schools (Div. I, II, and III) for the third consecutive season and fifth time in the last seven 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 eight seasons.
- .440: The Knights had one of the stingiest defenses in the MIAC, yielding only 63.6 points per game on .440 shooting (2nd in the conference)
- 11.6: Carleton's strong post play meant the team was last in the MIAC in taking only 11.6 three-pointers per game.

Did You Know?

- Taylor Hanson '14 was one of only two NCAA Division III players to average more than 15.0 points, 9.0 rebounds, and 3.5 assists while shooting better than .500 from the field last season. He was the first MIAC player to accomplish that feat in at least 12 seasons.

Off the Court

- Taylor Hanson '14 and Cameron Webb '14 were named to the Honors Court as selected by the National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC). The award recognizes those men's collegiate basketball student-athletes who excelled in academics during the past season. Hanson was also named to the Capital One Academic All-District team.



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

Head coach

- Rich Glas (Seventh season)

A Year Ago

- 8-12 MIAC (7th place) | 12-13 Overall

Top Returners

- Jordan Bolger (F, Jr. | 2013-14 MIAC All-Conference; led the team in scoring, rebounding and field goal percentage in 2014; in the top 10 in the MIAC in 10 different statistical categories in conference play)
- Brandon Giese (G, Sr. | led the team in 3-point field goals in 2013-14; sixth in the MIAC in 3-point FG's; had at least one 3-point field goal in all but four games last year)
- Tom Fraase (G, Jr. | Led the MIAC in 3-point field goal percentage in 2013-14; shot 46.2% from behind the arc; third on the team in scoring in 2013-14)

Key Losses

- None

By the Numbers

- 6: Concordia had six games last year where they attempted 20 or more 3-point field goals
- 8: Concordia returns their top 8 scorers from last year
- 95.4: Concordia returns 95.4% of their total scoring from last year's team

Did You Know?

- Concordia senior center Scott Flotterud is the seventh generation of his family to live on the same family farm.

Off the Court

- Concordia was one of less than 150 schools in all of NCAA Divisions I,II and III and NAIA to receive the National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC) Team Academic Excellence Award last season.



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

Head coach

- Mark Hanson (25th season)

A Year Ago

- 13-7 MIAC (T-4th place) | 17-10 Overall

In the 2013-14 Postseason

- Fell to St. Olaf 66-53 in MIAC Playoff Semifinals

Top Returners

- Brody Ziegler (Jr., F) | 2013-14 All-Conference...Started in all 27 games and averaged 25.3 minutes per game (4th/team)...Finished third on the team in scoring with 289 points for an average of 10.7 points per game...Shot 57.3 percent (122-213) from the floor and brought down a team-best 148 rebounds for an average of 5.5 rebounds per game.
- Martin Feddersen (Sr., F) | 2013-14 All-Conference Honorable Mention...Started all 27 games and averaged 27.3 minutes per game...Ranked fourth on the team in scoring with an 8.4 points per game average...Led team and ranked third in the MIAC with a 61.5-percent field goal percentage...Led team and ranked second in the league with 109 assists...Averaged 4.5 rebounds per game (2nd/team).
- Peter Kruize (So., C) | 2013-14 All-MIAC Freshman Team...Played in 26 games and averaged 15.8 minutes per game off the bench...Shot 56.6 percent from the floor (3rd/team) and averaged 7.7 points per game...Averaged 3.2 rebounds per game.

Key Losses

- Jordan Dick (G) | 2013-14 All-MIAC...Started all 27 games and led team in minutes per game (31.3), three-point field goal percentage (.454, 54-119), and points per game (11.6)...Averaged 3.3 rebounds per game (3rd/team) and totaled 32 assists and 15 steals.
- Brian Jacobs (C) | Will sit out 2014-15 season due to injury...2013-14 All-MIAC Honorable Mention...Started all 27 games and averaged 22.5 minutes. Averaged 8.9 points per game and shot 52.5 percent from field.

By the Numbers

- 30: Consecutive seasons that Gustavus has finished with double-digit victories in the MIAC. In those 30 seasons, the Gusties have won the MIAC Championship eight times.
- 9: The number of Gustavus returners who averaged more than 12 minutes per game last season.
- 69: Percent of Gustavus's scoring that returns from last season.

Did You Know?

- This past Saturday, two former Gustavus men's basketball players were inducted into the Gustavus Athletics Hall of Fame. Luke Schmidt was a three-time all-conference performer who also earned all-region honors in 1997 and 1998, and ranks fifth all-time in scoring at Gustavus with 1,607 points. Bob Southworth was a three-year starter and two-time all-conference selection on Gustavus teams that won MIAC championships in 1996 and 1997 and made NCAA tournament appearances in 1996, 1997, 1998, and 1999.

Off the Field

- 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 (Second season)

A Year Ago

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

Top Returners

- Dior Ford (F, Sr., career 1,000 point scorer, 17.4 ppg last year – All-MIAC)
- Austin Johnson (F, Sr. 10.5 ppg, 6.6 rpg last season)
- Bennett Cooper (F, Sr. 7.9 ppg, 4.8 rpg last year)

Key Losses

- Tyler Pannell (G, four-year regular)

By the Numbers

- 5: seniors on the 2014-15 HU roster
- 10: number of new players on 2014-15 HU roster
- 19: number of players on 2014-15 HU roster

Did You Know?

- Hamline played the first collegiate basketball game in 1895, losing 8-3 to Minnesota School of Agriculture

Off the Court

- As they did last year, the Pipers will do a community service project with Feed My Starving Children.

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



Head coach

- Tim Whittle (Sixth season)

A Year Ago

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

Top Returners

- Dylan Kilgour (Jr., G | Honorable Mention All-MIAC, 13.8 PPG, 2.3 APG, 2.6 RPG, 62-151 3Pt)
- Kareem Ismail (So., C | MIAC All-Freshman Team, 11.6 PPG, 1.0 APG, 5.8 RPG, .502 FG%)
- Griffin Glatt (Jr., F | 8.5 PPG, 1.4 APG, 4.7 RPG)

Key Losses

- Anthony Granai (G | 3.1 PPG, 0.3 APG, 1.1 RPG)
- Anders Voss (F | 2.8 PPG, 0.2 APG, 1.9 RPG)

By the Numbers

- 5: All five Macalester starters return this season. Of a possible 125 man-games started in 2013-14, all 125 were started by players returning this season.
- 10: The number of states represented by the 17 players on this year's team.
- 92: The Scots return 92 percent of its scoring from last season.

Did You Know?

- With 10 of 14 players returning from last year's squad, representing 90.1 percent of the team's total minutes played, the Scots still only sport two seniors on their 2014-15 roster.

Off the Court

• Senior forward Bert Yaffe has put together a number of video highlight packages for the Macalester Athletics department. "It has given me a unique opportunity to see how other teams operate here at Mac," he said. "It has given me a greater appreciation for the time and energy our coaches put into their craft, and also for how dedicated all of our student-athletes are here at Mac."

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



Head coach

- Jim Smith (51st season)

A Year Ago

- 13-7 MIAC (T-4th place) | 15-11 Overall

In the 2014 Postseason

- MIAC postseason results (Quarterfinals – lost to Gustavus, 64-65)

Top Returners

- Mitchell Kuck (W, Jr. | Played 15 games due to a foot injury suffered after the season's second game...shot 52.8 percent from the field and 41.2 percent from three-point range...finished third on the team with 10.3 points per game...2012-13 MIAC All-Rookie team)
- Blake Maslonkowski (P, Sr. | Played all 26 games, with 25 starts ...led the team with 154 rebounds and 33 steals...finished second on the team in minutes played with an average of 28.2 per game...third on the team with 244 points)
- Alex Schmitt (G, Jr. | 2014 MIAC Sixth Man of the Year...played in 23 games, all off the bench...set a new SJU single-season record with a .936 free-throw percentage (44-for-47)...finished second on the team in points with 255, 11.1 per game)

Key Losses

- Patrick Butcher (G | Finished third in the MIAC with a .449 shooting percentage from three-point range and averaged 10 points in 20 MIAC games...averaged 21 points and 3.5 assists, while shooting 57.7 percent (15-for-26) from the field and 62.5 percent (5-for-8) from behind the three-point line, in two games against St. Thomas)
- Seth Marx (W | Two-time All-MIAC first-team selection...led SJU in scoring with an average of 11.6 points in 18 games after missing the first half of the 2013-14 season due to a knee injury suffered during preseason practice...led the team with 39 three-pointers and finished second with an average of five rebounds per game...totaled 783 points and ended his career third in school history with 165 three-pointers)
- Kevin McKenzie (G | All-MIAC honorable mention in 2013-14...averaged seven points per game, shot 46.7 percent (14-for-30) from three-point range and registered a 2.6 assist/turnover ratio (67-26) in 20 MIAC games...was the lone Johnnie to start all 26 games, of which he led the team with an average of 31.9 minutes per contest...tallied a career-high 89 assists...finished 10th in school history with 230 career assists)

By the Numbers

- 55.5%: The Johnnies return four of their top six scorers from last season in junior guard Alex Schmitt (11.1 ppg.), junior wing Mitchell Kuck (10.3 ppg.), senior post Blake Maslonkowski (9.4 ppg.) and junior wing Joe Risinger (7.5 ppg.). The four combined to shoot 55.5 percent (329-for-593) from the field and accounted for 46 percent of the team's scoring in 2013-14.
- 67.1: Maslonkowski shot a MIAC-leading 67.1 percent (104-155) from the field and led the team in rebounding (5.9 rpg.) last winter.
- 11.1/17: The MIAC Sixth Man of the Year, Schmitt averaged 11.1 points in only 17 minutes per game off the bench last season.

Did You Know?

- Despite slow starts each of the past two seasons, SJU bounced back with impressive late-season runs to make the MIAC Playoffs. In 2012-13, the Johnnies started the season 3-10 only to win nine of its last 12 regular-season games. The pattern followed suit again in 2013-14 with a 5-8 start, but SJU won 10 of its last 12 games to make the postseason.

Off the Court

- Six Saint John's basketball student-athletes were named to the 2013-14 National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC) Honors Court. To be eligible for the distinction, student-athletes must be a junior or senior academically, a varsity player during the 2013-14 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 (Second season)

A Year Ago

- 2-18 MIAC (11th place) | 3-22 Overall

Top Returners

- Will Swiggum (6-5, 180, Jr., F | 25 GP, 12.3 ppg, 7.3 rpg, 114 FG | 2013-14 H-M All-MIAC, 2012-13 MIAC All-First Year Team)
- Wylie Ferron (6-4, 210, So., F | 25 GP — only Cardinal to start all 25 games — 9.8 ppg, 4.4 rpg, 9 blocks)
- Ronnie Ortiz (5-9, 165, So., G | 8.1 ppg, 1.5 rpg, .780 FT % — 32-for-41)

By The Numbers

- 5: Will Swiggum (St. Charles, Minn.), who eclipsed the 20-point barrier twice, boasted a team-best five double-doubles last season — giving him eight in his two-year collegiate career.
- 7: The Cardinals boasted seven players who recorded career-high games of 10 or more points last season — Evan Pederson (Onalaska,

Wis. / 29 points), Wylie Ferron (Waconia, Minn. / 19), Ronnie Ortiz (Dayton, Ohio / 18), Bakari Collins (Kenosha, Wis. / 14), Trent Vix (Rushford, Minn. / 13), Aaron Romportl (Stillwater, Minn. / 13) and Johnny Spillane (West St. Paul, Minn. / 11).

- 31: Saint Mary's 31-point, 79-48 win over Macalester was its largest margin of victory since beating Cal-Tech 87-37 on Dec. 18, 2003 and the largest against an MIAC team since dropping Saint John's 94-57 during the 1957-58 season.

Did You Know?

- Saint Mary's 86-81 OT win over Crown on Nov. 23 was coach Jamison Rusthoven's first collegiate head coaching victory, while the Cardinals' 67-51 win over Macalester on Jan. 2 was Rusthoven's first conference coaching victory.

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 Cardinal players and coaches spend time teaching and working with these special players. Several of the Buddies are regulars at the Saint Mary's basketball games.



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

Head coach

- Dan Kosmoski (21st season)

A Year Ago

- 17-3 MIAC (2nd place) | 22-6 Overall

In the 2014 Postseason

- Won MIAC Playoff title... Defeated Gustavus 66-53 in semifinals and UST 63-53 in final.
- Lost in first round of NCAA's, 85-72 to Central (Iowa)

Top Returners

- Sterling Nielsen (G, Sr. | All-MIAC, MIAC All-Defensive Team, 11.4 ppg)
- Justin Pahl (G, Jr. | All-MIAC honorable mention... 10.3 ppg... led team with 54 3-pointers)

Key Losses

- Connor Gunderson (F | All-MIAC, 13.8 ppg, 5.3 rpg, .608 FG pct.)
- Nathan Kuck (G | 5.6 ppg)
- Josh Pratt (G | started 26 of 28 games... 5.1 ppg)

By the Numbers

- 4th: St. Olaf boasted the 4th-ranked defense in the country last season, allowing a mere 58.5 points/game... The Oles were fifth in turnovers committed, 10th in scoring margin, 11th in assist-turnover ratio and 12th in fewest turnovers.
- 2.89: Sterling Nielsen's 2.89 assist-turnover ratio ranked 13th in the country in 2013-14.
- 500: The Oles' MIAC title victory came in head coach Dan Kosmoski's 500th career game.

Did You Know?

- The Oles' trip to the NCAA Division III tournament in 2013-14 was the first in program history.



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

Head coach

- John Tauer (Fourth season)

A Year Ago

- 18-2 MIAC (MIAC Champions) | 22-6 Overall

In the 2014 Postseason

- MIAC postseason results (1-1, 2nd place; def. Bethel 74-59, lost 63-53 to St.Olaf)
- NCAA postseason results (0-1, lost 87-77 round one to Augustana (Ill.))

Top Returners

- Conner Nord (Center, SR; 13-14: 11.5 ppg, 6.8 rpg, All-MIAC; Career: 722 points, 527 rebounds in 87 games)
- Marcus Alipate (Guard, SR; 619 points in 87 games; UST is 21-5 on his career in games when he's scored in double figures)
- Taylor Montero (Forward, JR; 42% career 3-point range (58-of-140); career highs with 18 points, 13 rebounds in MIAC playoff championship game)

Key Losses

- Zach Riedeman (Forward, Grad, All-MIAC, 947 points in 110 career games; 2013-14: 12.5 ppg, 4.9 rpg, 2.6 apg)
- Erik Tengwall (Guard, Grad, All-MIAC; 73 career starts at point guard; 2013-14: 10.0 ppg, 3.5 rpg, 3.1 apg, 44% 3FG, 82% FT)

By the Numbers

- 9,9,9: UST Men's Hoops has current consecutive streaks of nine MIAC titles, nine NCAA playoff berths and nine 20-win seasons
- 18: Minnesotans on Tommies' 19-man varsity roster

- 3: UST's ranking in Division III for all-time men's basketball victories at 1,578, with a shot at 1,600 as early as this season

Did You Know?

- The Toms opened their 2014-15 season in a Nov. 8 exhibition game, and scored a 74-52 road upset of Division II No. 7-ranked Minnesota State Mankato, a 30-win team last winter.

Off the Court

- UST two-time All-America center Isaac Rosefelt (2005-07) recently was named Player of the Month in Israel's top professional league. He's among seven Tommie alums in the last decade to play in pro leagues overseas.

[MIAC Men's Basketball Home Page](#)