

Casey Vangsness, Saint John's

Alexandria, Minn. / Alexandria

Week of: 2011-05-03



Sometimes first-year college athletes struggle to adjust to a higher level of competition, or eventually hit a wall due to a longer, more-demanding season than they're accustomed to. However, Saint John's golfer **Casey Vangsness** (Alexandria, Minn.) has displayed a talent level and maturity beyond his years during his freshman season, evidenced by another great performance to lead the Johnnies last week. Vangsness shot even par to earn medalist honors and lead SJU to a win in the annual Johnnie-Tommie Cup with rival St. Thomas. For his performance, Vangsness has been named the MIAC Men's Golf Athlete-of-the-Week for the second week in a row, and the third time overall in 2010-11.

A week after sharing medalist – and MIAC Athlete-of-the-Week – honors, Vangsness played a great round to earn the top spot all by himself against the rival Tommies in Friday's match-play event. Vangsness shot an even-par 72 to record the lowest score of the round at Pebble Creek G.C. in Becker, Minn., one shot ahead of teammate Tony Krogen and three shots ahead of four players tied at 75. In addition, Vangsness won his match against UST's Carter Holmquist to help the Johnnies score a 10.5-2.5 victory over the Tommies.

The Johnnies, ranked second in NCAA Division III, are done with the regular season, but do have one big tournament to look forward to. SJU will represent the MIAC in the NCAA Division III Men's Golf Championships May 10-13 at Grandover Resort in Greensboro, N.C., thanks to its MIAC title and automatic bid to the national tournament.

Casey Vangsness, Saint John's

Alexandria, Minn. / Alexandria

Week of: 2011-04-26



Despite less-than-ideal conditions for premium golf and less experience than many of the golfers in the field, youth was triumphantly served over the weekend at the Saint John's Invitational. Gustavus sophomore Alex Kolquist and Saint John's underclassmen Andy Stahlman (sophomore) and **Casey Vangsness** (freshman) each carded an astounding 1-over-par 215 over the 54-hole tournament to share medalist honors and, as a result, the trio has collectively been named the MIAC Men's Golf Athlete-of-the-Week.

Vangsness (Alexandria, Minn.) established himself as a medalist contender right off the bat, then played well enough the rest of the way to stay in the tie for first. His opening-round 67 was the lowest 18-hole score of the entire invite, and he followed with a 75 and a final-round 73 to share medalist honors with a three-round total of 215 and earn his second Athlete-of-the-Week award of 2010-11 (Sept. 21). The tournament opened Friday with 36 holes at Monticello Country Club, with an unseasonable temperature in the upper 30s and wind chills in the mid 20s. Over the second 18 holes that day, temperatures rose into the 40s, but rain accompanied making the low scores even more impressive. Saturday's final 18 holes were played at St. Cloud Country Club.

With his medalist performance, Vangsness helped lead the Johnnies to a second-place team finish at their home invite. SJU carded a three-round team total of 870 (14-over-par) to finish second behind Gustavus by six shots. The Johnnies are back on the course Friday, competing in a meet hosted by the University of St. Thomas in Becker, Minn., with a 2 p.m. start. SJU will also host an alumni meet Monday at 1:30 p.m. in Maple Grove, Minn.

Andy Stahlman, Saint John's

Wayzata, Minn. / Wayzata
Week of: 2011-04-26



Despite less-than-ideal conditions for premium golf and less experience than many of the golfers in the field, youth was triumphantly served over the weekend at the Saint John's Invitational. Gustavus sophomore Alex Kolquist and Saint John's underclassmen **Andy Stahlman** (sophomore) and Casey Vangsness (freshman) each carded an astounding 1-over-par 215 over the 54-hole tournament to share medalist honors and, as a result, the trio has collectively been named the MIAC Men's Golf Athlete-of-the-Week.

Stahlman (Wayzata, Minn.) saved his best for last at his team's home invite. After carding a 74 and 73 over the first day's opening rounds, he finished with a spectacular 69 to charge into the three-way tie for medalist honors. His final round score was the lowest of the co-medalists by three strokes. The tournament opened Friday with 36 holes at Monticello Country Club, with an unseasonable temperature in the upper 30s and wind chills in the mid 20s. Over the second 18 holes that day, temperatures rose into the 40s, but rain accompanied making the low scores even more impressive. Saturday's final 18 holes were played at St. Cloud Country Club.

Stahlman's low final round helped his team shave strokes off its score and move up the leader board. Golfing for the Saint John's Blue squad, Stahlman led the Blue to a 288 – the lowest score of the final round – and a fourth-place finish overall with a total score of 880 (24-over-par), finishing behind Gustavus (864), Saint John's (870) and St. Cloud State (878). The Johnnies are back on the course Friday, competing in a meet hosted by the University of St. Thomas in Becker, Minn., with a 2 p.m. start. SJU will also host an alumni meet Monday at 1:30 p.m. in Maple Grove, Minn.

Alex Kolquist, Gustavus

Hermantown, Minn. / Hermantown
Week of: 2011-04-26



Despite less-than-ideal conditions for premium golf and less experience than many of the golfers in the field, youth was triumphantly served over the weekend at the Saint John's Invitational. Gustavus sophomore **Alex Kolquist** and Saint John's underclassmen Andy Stahlman (sophomore) and Casey Vangsness (freshman) each carded an astounding 1-over-par 215 over the 54-hole tournament to share medalist honors and, as a result, the trio has collectively been named the MIAC Men's Golf Athlete-of-the-Week.

Of the three, Kolquist (Hermantown, Minn.) may have been the most consistent over all three rounds. His low score was his second-round 70, but he never carded an 18-hole score above 73 over the weekend. Kolquist's 73 came in the first round, he followed with the 70 and finished with a 72 to earn his share of the medalist honors. The tournament opened Friday with 36 holes at Monticello Country Club, with an unseasonable temperature in the upper 30s and wind chills in the mid 20s. Over the second 18 holes that day, temperatures rose into the 40s, but rain accompanied making the low scores even more impressive. Saturday's final 18 holes were played at St. Cloud Country Club.

Kolquist helped the Gusties finish first as a team atop the 16-team field at the Johnnies' invite. Gustavus shot a collective 8-over-par 864 to edge the host school by six strokes for the top team honor. All five players on the Gusties' top team in the field finished in the individual top 15. This is Kolquist's second Athlete-of-the-Week award in 2010-11, after he also won the award last fall on Oct. 12.

Brandon Engebos, St. Thomas

DePere, Wis. / DePere
Week of: 2011-04-19



Consistency is key in the sport of golf, and that was extremely evident over the weekend at the three-round Bobby Krig Invite hosted by Gustavus Adolphus College. University of St. Thomas men's golfer **Brandon Engebos** (DePere, Wis.) consistently shot the best scores of any golfer in the MIAC over the course of all three 18-hole rounds, and when the final scores were tallied the junior was just 4-over-par and in a tie for second place. Engebos was just a single shot off the medalist, and he turned in the best card of all the MIAC golfers in the field, which also resulted in his selection as MIAC Men's Golf Athlete-of-the-Week.

Engebos fired an even-par 72 over the opening 18 holes at the Ridges at Sand Creek, but that great score was only good enough for an eighth-place tie after the first day. However, he followed with consistently good scores of 71 (1-over-par) and 73 (3-over-par) over the final rounds at Le Sueur CC to finish ahead of the other 65 MIAC golfers in the field and just a single stroke out of first place. In the process, Engebos led the Tommies to a fourth-place finish in the 16-team field, and he finished with a 54-hole total of 216 (4-over-par). This season, Engebos has a 77.2 stroke average with three top-20 finishes.

The Tommies and Engebos will try to keep that consistency going this weekend with a two-day meet hosted by the University of Saint John's. They'll tee off Friday at 8 a.m. and finish up with a noon start on Saturday at the Saint John's Invitational.

Joel Kociemba, Augsburg

Andover, Minn. / St. Francis
Week of: 2011-04-12



Though it can be tough for golfers in the north to shake the rust off and get their swing in mid-season form following a long winter, the long layoff hasn't been a problem for Augsburg senior **Joel Kociemba** (Andover, Minn./St. Francis) thus far in the 2011 spring golf season. Kociemba has been great in the Auggies two recent appearances, recording the lowest score by a MIAC golfer at the Loras College Spring Invitational and he added another low score at match-play even with Bethel last week. For his performances, Kociemba has been named the first MIAC Men's Golf Athlete-of-the-Week of the spring season.

Kociemba tied for 11th in a competitive field of 71 golfers at the Loras Invite, held April 3-4 in Asbury and Peosta, Iowa. The Augsburg senior had a great first round, recording a 1-over-par 73, and he added an 81 on the second day for his two-day total of 154 (10-over-par). He was the Auggies' top golfer, and had the lowest score of any MIAC golfer in the meet, as St. Olaf was also in the field. He followed that up with a 2-under-par 69 Thursday to lead Augsburg to victory in the first-ever "Auggie-Royal Cup" – a match play contest between conference rivals Augsburg and Bethel. Because it was match play, scores do not count towards season statistics.

The Auggies and Kociemba will try to continue their solid spring seasons on April 14 when they travel across the border into Wisconsin for the University of Wisconsin-Stout Border Battle, which will be held at Chippewa Valley GC. The team's final even this spring will be the Gustavus Adolphus College Bobby King Invitational with 54 holes in Jordan and Le Sueur, Minn.

Chris Conklin, St. Olaf



Though the weather is finally cooling down, St. Olaf men's golfer **Chris Conklin** (Eden Prairie, Minn.) has been heating up as the fall portion of the 2010-11 winds to a close. Conklin – who finished second at the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (MIAC) Championships – closed his fantastic fall with a top-10 finish against a loaded field this week at a prestigious tournament in Georgia. For his performance, Conklin received his second MIAC Men's Golf Athlete-of-the-Week award of 2010-11.

Conklin finished in a tie for eighth place at the Royal Lakes/Olgethorpe Fall Invitational, which was held at Royal Lakes GC in Chestnut Mountain, Ga., Monday and Tuesday. Conklin carded a 1-over-par 72 each day to finish with a 36-hole total of 144 (2-over-par). The 16-team field featured 99 individuals, and 11 of the 16 teams were either ranked in the Top 25 or received votes in the latest coaches' poll. The All-MIAC golfer led No. 21-ranked St. Olaf to an 11th- place finish at the event with a two-day team total of 609.

This weekend's action concluded the 2010 fall season for all MIAC golf teams. The 2010-11 season – including the 2011 NCAA Division III Men's Golf National Championships – will resume in the spring, along with the MIAC Athlete-of-the-Week award.

Alex Kolquist, Gustavus



The nice thing about a three-day golf tournament is it allows players to bounce back from a bad start with two more rounds. Gustavus sophomore **Alex Kolquist** (Hermantown, Minn.) didn't even start slow – he carded a 78 over the first 18 holes – but his performance over the final 36 holes was spectacular and he finished just two shots over par over the entire 54 holes. As a result, Kolquist finished in second place in the individual standings, and Tuesday he was named the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (MIAC) Men's Golf Co-Athlete-of-the-Week.

Kolquist followed his first-round 78 with a spectacular 67 over the second 18 holes, and he was nearly as good during the final round with a 71 for a three-day total of 218 to finish as the runner-up out of 107 individuals. In the process, Kolquist led the Gusties to a second-place finish at the 19-team tournament they hosted at Elk River CC, the Links at Northfork and Wayzata CC. Kolquist's 67 is the second-lowest round shot by any MIAC golfer this fall and his 74.8 stroke average is the fourth-best in the conference in 2010.

The Twin Cities Classic was the Gusties' final event of the 2010 fall season. Gustavus will return to action in the spring with the rest of the MIAC teams.

Tony Krogen, Saint John's

Marshall, Minn. / Marshall
Week of: 2010-10-12



The Saint John's men's golf team – fresh off its 2010 MIAC championship – traveled to Greensboro, N.C., over the weekend to square off with an elite Division III field. The Johnnies proved they belong in the national title hunt, and junior **Tony Krogen** (Marshall, Minn.) competed with some of the best individuals in the division, leading SJU with his fourth-place finish. For his performance, Krogen was named the MIAC Men's Golf Co-Athlete-of-the-Week Tuesday.

Krogen opened the 36-hole tournament at Grandover Resort with a 75, but he responded with a spectacular 2-under-par 70 over the final 18 holes to card a 145 (1-over-par) and finish fourth, just two shots behind the individual medalist. Krogen led the Johnnies to a third-place team finish in a field that featured some of the top 20 ranked Division III teams according to Golfstat. Krogen's great performance comes just a week after he earned All-MIAC honors by tying for third at the conference meet. This season, his 74.7 stroke average is the third-best in the league.

The trip to North Carolina for the Gordin Classic was the Johnnies' final competition of the fall season. By virtue of its second-straight MIAC championship, Saint John's has already secured a berth in the NCAA Division III Men's Golf National Championship, which will be held this spring, also in Greensboro.

Andrew Whitchurch, Concordia

Litchfield, Minn. / Litchfield
Week of: 2010-10-05



Concordia sophomore **Andrew Whitchurch** (Litchfield, Minn.) picked the right time for his best collegiate performance. Whitchurch came in at 1-under-par at the 2010 Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (MIAC) Men's Golf Championship over the weekend to earn individual medalist honors and headline the All-Conference Team. For his performance, Whitchurch has also been named the MIAC Men's Golf Athlete-of-the-Week.

Whitchurch played well over the first two 18-hole rounds Saturday and Sunday to put himself in contention, and then he stormed into the lead Monday with a brilliant final-round performance. The sophomore shot a 3-over-par 75 to open the weekend, then improved Sunday with a 1-under-par 71, and finally his 3-under-par 69 Monday secured the title and brought his overall 54-hole score under par (215, 1-under). The 69 was the lowest 18-hole score of the tournament. Whitchurch is the first Cobbers' golfer to earn MIAC medalist honors. He helped Concordia finish fourth in the team standings at the championship.

Whitchurch and the Cobbers will be back on the course to wrap up the fall portion of their season this weekend. Concordia will compete in the Twin Cities Classic, hosted by Gustavus, Oct. 9-11.

Dennis Granath, Saint John's



The Saint John's University men's golf team kept rolling over the weekend with an impressive victory over a solid field at the Frank Wigglesworth Blugold Invitational. The Johnnies' were led by sophomore **Dennis Granath** (Bandhagen, Sweden/Farsta Gymnasium), who came in under par to claim medalist honors. For his heroics, Granath is the second Johnnies golfer in as many weeks to earn the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (MIAC) Men's Golf Athlete-of-the-Week award.

Granath put himself in position for the win with a 1-over-par 73 during Sunday's opening round at Wild Ridge G.C. in Eau Claire, Wis. He then went out and claimed victory with a 2-under-par round Monday at New Richmond G.C. in New Richmond, Wis., to finish the 36 holes with a 1-under-par total of 143. In the process, Granath led SJU back from a two-stroke deficit after the first day to an eventual 17-shot win. Saint John's varsity has now finished first twice and second once in its three tournament appearances this season, and Granath boasts the team's second-best scoring average at 75.5 strokes per round.

This weekend, Granath and the Johnnies will try to defend their 2009 MIAC Men's Golf Championship at the 2010 conference meet. The tournament will run Saturday to Monday with an 18-hole round each day at Bunker Hills Golf Course in Blaine, Minn.

Ryan Lubinsky, St. Olaf

Eau Claire, Wis. / Memorial
Week of: 2010-09-21



A long trip against an absolutely loaded field was well worth it for the St. Olaf men's golf team and talented junior Ryan Lubinsky (Eau Claire, Wis. / Memorial) last week. Lubinsky paired one good round with two great rounds to finish just 1-over-par at the Golfweek Fall D3 Invitational last week at Southern Dunes Golf and Country Club (Haines City, Fla.). Lubinsky tied for ninth-place individually, and as a result, he received a share of the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (MIAC) Men's Golf Athlete-of-the-Week Award.

Lubinsky worked his way into the top 10 by coming in under par at each of the final two rounds. After a 4-over-par 75 on day one, the junior shot back-to-back 1-under-par 71s to record a three-day total of 217 against the tournament's top-notch field. Among the Division III talent in attendance was top-ranked Methodist and a total of 10 teams that competed in last year's NCAA Division III Championships. Thanks to Lubinsky's play – as well as teammate Chris Conklin who also shot 217 and shared ninth place and Athlete-of-the-Week honors – the Oles finished sixth out of 16 teams at the Golfweek meet.

St. Olaf and its two standout golfers will return to action this weekend when it travels to the Macalester Invitational. The two-day meet will be held Saturday and Sunday.

Chris Conklin, St. Olaf

Eden Prairie, Minn. / Eden Prairie
Week of: 2010-09-21



The St. Olaf men's golf team went up against some of the best competition Division III has to offer, and thanks to performances like **Chris Conklin's** (Eden Prairie, Minn.), the Oles came away feeling great about their 2010-11 squad. Conklin's consistent play resulted in a 1-over-par performance at the Golfweek Fall D3 Invitational last week at Southern Dunes Golf and Country Club (Haines City, Fla.) which tied him for ninth-place individually, and that helped him earn a share of the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (MIAC) Men's Golf Athlete-of-the-Week Award.

Conklin shot a 1-over-par 73 over the first 18 holes, and followed with back-to-back rounds of even-par 72 golf to record a three-day total of 217, which earned him a spot in the top 10 of the prestigious field. Among the Division III talent in attendance was top-ranked Methodist and a total of 10 teams that competed in last year's NCAA Division III Championships. Thanks to Conklin's play – as well as teammate Ryan Lubinsky who also shot 217 and shared ninth place and Athlete-of-the-Week honors – the Oles finished sixth out of 16 teams at the Golfweek meet.

St. Olaf and its two standout golfers will return to action this weekend when it travels to the Western Wisconsin for the Macalester Invitational. The two-day meet will be held Saturday and Sunday at Troy Burne GC in Hudson, Wis.

Casey Vangsness, Saint John's

Alexandria, Minn. / Alexandria
Week of: 2010-09-21



Though Saint John's men's golfer Casey Vangsness (Alexandria, Minn.) is just a few weeks into his first season of collegiate golf, the freshman clearly felt right at home over the weekend at the Johnnies' home tournament. Vangsness led SJU to the team title while claiming individual medalist honors at the 2010 Saint John's Fall Invitational, and that performance also earned him a share of the MIAC Men's Golf Athlete-of-the-Week award.

Vangsness and his team were both better on day two, but very good throughout the entire 36-hole event. After a 2-over-par 73 over the first 18 holes, Vangsness followed with a 2-under-par 71 to finish at an even-par 144 to claim a one-shot lead in the individual competition. Meanwhile, his performance helped the Johnnies rally from a one-shot deficit to claim the team championship. SJU has finished first and second in its first two tournaments of the year.

This weekend, Vangsness and Saint John's will meet St. Olaf and the other two Tri-Athletes-of-the-Week at the Macalester Invitational, which will run both Saturday and Sunday.

Simon Erlandsson, Gustavus



In his first collegiate action on a new continent, **Simon Erlandsson** (Mjolby, Sweden/Bildningcentrum Facetten) sure didn't play like a rookie. The true freshman from Sweden impressed in his debut for Gustavus Adolphus College, leading the Gusties to a first-place finish while claiming individual medalist honors. For his performance, Erlandsson also claimed the first Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (MIAC) Men's Golf Athlete-of-the-Week honor of his young career.

Erlandsson came in under par to win the Augsburg Invitational, held at the Majestic Oaks Golf Course in Ham Lake, Minn. His 36-hole total of 142 was two shots under par, and featured a 70 over the first 18 holes and a second-round 72. He was the only golfer to come in under par at the tournament, and one big reason Gustavus claimed the team title with a 35-over-par score of 611.

Gustavus and its talented freshman hope to continue their winning ways this weekend at the Saint John's Invitational. Saturday's round will be played at Greystone Country Club in Sauk Centre, Minn., and Sunday's will be held at Blackberry Ridge Golf Club in St. Cloud, Minn.