

2002 MIAC Men's Golf Awards

May 10, 2002

MIAC Player of the Year - Sammy Schmitz, Saint John's University

Saint John's University junior Sammy Schmitz (Farmington, Minn.) was selected the 2002 MIAC Player of the Year. Schmitz, a two-time All-American, finished second at the 2001 MIAC championship meet. Entering next week's NCAA championship, Schmitz has a season stroke average of 72.80, which ranks him fourth nationally. Schmitz has had eight top-10 finishes in 10 events played during the 2001-02 season.

MIAC Freshman of the Year - A.J. Hoffman, Gustavus Adolphus College

Gustavus Adolphus College freshman A.J. Hoffman (Mankato, Minn.) has stepped right in and contributed significantly on a Gustavus men's golf team that has been rated in the Top Five of Division III all year. Hoffman, who will be a part of the Gustie squad that will be making its 18th consecutive appearance at the NCAA Championships this week, has compiled a solid stroke average of 78.0 through 20 rounds in both the fall and spring seasons. He started his career with a strong seventh place finish at the St. John's Invitational last September as he compiled a 36-hole total of 81-69--150. He later finished 17th at the MIAC Championships with a 36-hole total of 80-78-158. He wrapped up the spring regular season with an 11th place finish at the Gustie Spring Invitational with a 36-hole total of 76-74--150.

Co-Coaches of the Year - Bob Alpers, Saint John's University / John Ellinger, Carleton College

Bob Alpers is completing his ninth season as Saint John's University head men's golf coach. A 1982 graduate of SJU, Alpers also is an assistant men's basketball coach and director of SJU's intramural program. Alpers was also named MIAC Coach of the Year in 1999 and 2000 and has not finished lower than fifth at the MIAC meet in the nine years he has been head coach.

John Ellinger completed his ninth and final season as Carleton College head men's golf coach. A 1969 graduate of the College, he is a senior lecturer in music at Carleton. He led the Knights to one of their most successful spring seasons this year, highlighted by a 12th-place finish at the MSU-Mankato Spring Invitational. The Knights were fifth of nine MIAC schools in the event. Ellinger is retiring this year to devote more time to his business.