

# 2000 MIAC MEN'S GOLF PREVIEW

The 2000 MIAC Men's Golf season will be getting underway soon and much excitement is in the air. Saint John's University, last years MIAC Champion, returns all five individuals who competed in the NCAA Championship, which finished seventh. Watch for Gustavus Adolphus College to be putting pressure on SJU as the Gusties return four individuals who placed them in sixth at the NCAA Championship last season.

The 2000 MIAC Men's Golf Championship is set for Oct. 6 and 7 at Bunker Hills hosted by St. Thomas.

## Augsburg College

**Head Coach:** Brian Ammann (12th season)

**1999 MIAC Chapiionship:** 3rd

**Key Returners:** (Name, Yr, Highlight)

Hans Anderson (Sr.)

Adam Botton (Jr.)

Ted Vickerman (So.)

Kevin Sanft (Sr.)

**Season Preview:**

After two straight third-place finishes in the MIAC men's golf championship, Augsburg head coach Brian Ammann wants to get the Auggies back to the top of the ledger at the league meet this fall. So he's assembled one of the deepest lineups in school history to contend for the team's first league title since 1995 and first team berth in the NCAA Division III national meet since 1997.

Keying the Auggie attack will be a veteran group of golfers who improved dramatically from the fall half to the spring half of last season, dropping the team's stroke average from 314.16 in the fall to 303.71 in the spring. Augsburg lost just one senior -- national tournament qualifer and 1999 MIAC individual medalist Kevin Van Rossum -- to graduation.

Hans Anderson (Sr., St. Louis Park, Minn.), this year's only senior, will key the Auggie lineup. He dropped his average three strokes from the fall to the spring last season, finishing the spring half of the campaign with a 77.14 stroke average, second-lowest on the team. Three other veterans return to the Auggie lineup -- Adam Botten (Jr., St. Cloud, MN), Ted Vickerman (So., Eden Prairie, MN) and Kevin Sanft (Jr., St. Paul, MN). Botten qualified for the Minnesota State Open this summer, while Vickerman and Sanft showed strong improvement in the spring half of the year.

Two key junior college transfers with national tournament experience join the Auggie lineup. Thad Bloberger (Jr., St. Michael, MN.) was an All-Region player at Minneapolis Community College, and Nate Kruger (Jr., Litchfield, MN) was an All-American at Bethany Lutheran College in Mankato, Minn. Some solid newcomers also join the Auggie squad, including Travis Kalis (Fr., Elysian, MN.), a Junior PGA player, and Nick Collins (Fr., Green Bay, Wis./Notre Dame HS), who had the lowest single-round score in last season's Wisconsin high school state tournament. Tim Olsen (Fr., Vadnais Heights, MN) qualified for the Minnesota state tournament twice and earned all-conference honors three times. Chad Thomas (So., Austin, MN) transfers to Augsburg after playing at Luther College (Iowa) last season.

## Bethel College

**Head Coach:** Bill Shulenberg (8th season)

**1999 MIAC Chapiionship:** 5th

**Key Returners:** (Name, Yr, Highlight)

Jesse Geroy, Senior, Moorhead, MN

Todd Peterson, Junior, Des Moines, IA

**Season Preview:**

Jesse GeRoy (Moorhead, MN) returns as the senior captain and leader of Bethel's golf team. The Royals will look to him as well as junior Todd Peterson (Des Moines, IA) to consistently shoot in the low numbers. Peter Yankowiak (sophomore/Mora, MN) contributed well as a freshman last year and will be expected to continue that trend this year. Senior Ben Clair (Pierre, SD) and Junior Jami Saahtoff (Richfield, MN) both contributed sparingly last year and will hopefully rise to the occasion and help the Royals make a bid for the conference championship in the fall of 2000. A strong freshman class and transfers will give the returners a bit of competition as they try to carve out a spot for themselves on the Royals' squad.

## Carleton College

**Head Coach:** John Ellinger (10th season)

**1999 MIAC Chapiionship:** 8th

**Key Returners:** (Name, Yr, Highlight)

Matt Stangl, Jr., Inver Grove Heights, Minn.

Jeff Jensen, Sr., Billings, Mont.

Pat Byron, So., Urbandale, Iowa

Dave Cho, Sr., Hinsdale, Ill.

**Season Preview:**

Coach John Ellinger, in his 10th season, is hoping to improve on last season's eight-place finish as he returns four of his top five golfers from last year's squad. All told, nine members of the '99 team will grace the links this fall. The Knights will be led by junior Matt Stangl, who shot two rounds of 76 to take third place overall at last year's MIAC Championships at Bunker Hills Golf Course. Also returning to this year's line up are seniors Jeff Jensen and Dave Cho, and sophomore Pat Byron.

### Concordia College

**Head Coach:** Peter Hovde (2nd season)

**1999 MIAC Chapionship:** 6th

**Key Returners:** (Name, Yr, Highlight)

Seth Johnson Sr. Devils Lake ND/Devils Lake (1999 All-MIAC)

Mike Hagen Jr. Moorhead MN/Moorhead (1998 All-MIAC)

Adam Hanson So. Barrett MN/West Central Area

**Season Preview:**

The 1999 Concordia men's golf team went through a period of adjustment. The team had a new coach, Peter Hovde, and they also had to find a way to replace their top two golfers from 1998. The 2000 Cobber golf team

will hope a year of familiarity will help bring them back to the top of the MIAC. Seth Johnson (Sr., Devils Lake, ND) will lead the team, as he posted a career high ninth place finish in the MIAC last year. He was also the team's number one golfer from a year ago with a 78.1 average. Also coming back to add depth to the team will be junior Mike Hagen (Moorhead, MN) who was an all conference performer in 1998 and earned all academic honors last year. He finished last year as Concordia's number two golfer with a 79.8 average. Sophomore Adam Hanson (Barrett, MN, West Central Area H.S.) should benefit from a years experience, and give the Cobbers a strong core of golfers. The team will also rely on a number of young golfers that will challenge for the remaining two spots on the team.

### Gustavus Adolphus College

**Head Coach:** Scott Moe (5th season)

**1999 MIAC Chapionship:** 2nd (6th in NCAA)

**Key Returners:** (Name, Yr, Highlight)

Chad Gustafson, SR, Forest Lake, MN (6th at '99 MIAC Chmpshp, 12th at NCAA Chmpshp)

Robb Trenda, SR, Owatonna, MN (1st at 1999 Bemidji State Invite, 3-year letterwinner)

Dan Suedbeck, SO, Redwood Falls, MN (Played #5 position last year as FY, 13th at NCAA Championships)

Brooks Anderson, JR, Lindstrom, MN (Two-year letterwinner, played #6 position last year)

**Season Preview:**

The Gustavus men's golf team returns four letterwinners from a team that finished sixth at the NCAA Championships last spring and Head Coach Scott Moe is excited about the prospects of the upcoming season. Moe will need to replace all-conference performers Joe Baker and J.P. Prenevost who graduated, but the squad will be bolstered by the return of All-Americans Chad Gustafson, a senior from Forest Lake and Dan Suedbeck, a sophomore from Redwood Falls. Gustafson finished 12th and Suedbeck placed 13th individually at the NCAA Championships last spring. Other key returners include senior Robb Trenda and juniors Brooks Anderson and David Shepley. Adding to the quality of the squad are three talented newcomers including Neil Johnson, a freshman from River Falls, Wisc., Josh Thimjon, a freshman from Plymouth, Minn. and Luke Benoit, a freshman from Faribault, Minn. The Gusties fall schedule will be highlighted by the MIAC Championships on Oct. 6-7, the Gordin Collegiate Classic in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina on Oct. 14-15 and the Rolex Collegiate Match Play Championships in Tupelo, Mississippi on Oct. 21-23.

### Macalester College

**Head Coach:** Martha Nause (1st season)

**1999 MIAC Chapionship:** 9th

**Key Returners:** (Name, Yr, Highlight)

Eli Amerson (Jr., Port Townsend, WA)

Mark Flynn (Jr., Madison, WI / West)

**Season Preview:**

Macalester hired Martha Nause as its new men's golf coach. Nause, a St. Olaf College graduate and a 22-year LPGA tour veteran, replaces Doug Bolstorff, who retired in May after coaching the team for a decade. Nause's successful LPGA career was highlighted by three tour wins, including the prestigious Du Marier - an LPGA major championship.

The Scots return All-MIAC golfer Eli Amerson (Jr., Port Townsend, WA) placed ninth at last year's conference championships and led the tournament after the first round with a 74. Mark Flynn (Jr., Madison, WI / West) was fourth out of 52 golfers earlier in the season at the Clarke College Invitational.

### Saint John's University

**Head Coach:** Bob Alpers (8th season)

**1999 MIAC Chapionship:** 1st

**Key Returners:** (Name, Yr, Highlight)

Matt McGovern, Sr., '00 All-America HM with 13th place NCAA finish

Sammy Schmitz, So., '00 All-America HM with 15th place NCAA finish

Robert Cliff, Sr., '00 Golf Coaches Association of America All-America Scholar Award

Chris Shearen, Sr., '00 Golf Coaches Association of America All-America Scholar Award

Paul Ponath, So., 48th place at '00 NCAA meet

**Season Preview:**

The Saint John's University golf team enters the 2000-01 campaign with the experience and excitement of just completing the most successful golf season in school history. The Johnnies won the MIAC title and finished seventh at the 2000 NCAA Division III national golf championship, as it was the first time a SJU golf team had been invited to the national tournament. SJU returns all five individuals that competed at the national tournament, along with a host of other talented

golfers. All things look bright for the Johnnies as they enter the 2000-01 season. Eighth year head coach Bob Alpers will once again coach SJU. Alpers, a 1982 graduate of SJU, was named MIAC Coach of the Year in honor of SJU's success in 1999 and will look to build on that success this season.

Complete preview can be found at: [www.csbsju.edu/sjusports/golfpre00.html](http://www.csbsju.edu/sjusports/golfpre00.html)

#### Saint Mary's University

**Head Coach:** Tom Farren (3rd season)

**1999 MIAC Chapionship:** 7th

**Key Returners:** (Name, Yr, Highlight)

Bryan Heim (Sr., 80.6 scoring average)

Matt Konicek (Jr., 83.7 scoring average)

Eric Cronin (Sr.)

Josh Knudtson (Sr.)

**Season Preview:**

With four of its top six golfers missing from last year's team, it would be understandable if Saint Mary's University men's golf coach Tom Farren wrote this season off as a rebuilding year.

After all, just the fact that his 12-man roster includes only four players who have any collegiate golf experience would be a reasonable excuse for any coach to expect a middle-of-the-road-type of season.

Yeah, right.

"I honestly think we are going to be a better, deeper team this year than we were last year," predicted Farren, whose team finished seventh at the MIAC Championships a year ago. "I think we have the potential to have a number of players kick in scores in the 70s on a regular basis. We didn't have that last year."

"I don't think we'll be forced to depend on one or two guys to carry the load like we did a year ago."

That is, if some of his untested players live up to their potential. If not, the shoulders of veterans Bryan Heim (Spooner, Wis.), Josh Knudtson (Austin, Minn.) and Matt Konicek (Wauconda, Ill.) could become very tired.

"We've got some guys who have proven on a regular basis that they can play at this level," said Farren, noting that Heim posted a number of rounds in the 70s en route to a team-leading 80.6 scoring average, while Konicek and Knudtson both had solid summers and come into the season at the top of their games. "I'm looking for a big year from Brian. He spent a lot of time over the summer working on his game and is playing lights-out right now. Josh and Matt are posting solid rounds, and some of the freshmen have shown they can put up some good numbers."

"The nucleus is there, now it's just a matter of finding the right combinations," Farren continued. "We have the potential to be a very, very good team. But once you get on the course, potential doesn't count for too much, it's what kind of numbers you put on the scorecard that matters."

Complete SMU men's golf preview: [www.smumn.edu/sports/golf/newsletter/gpreview.html](http://www.smumn.edu/sports/golf/newsletter/gpreview.html)

#### St. Olaf College

**Head Coach:** Ken Pratt (13th season)

**1999 MIAC Chapionship:** N/A

**Key Returners:** (Name, Yr, Highlight)

Ben Muilenburg, Sr.

Max Windmiller, Sr.

Jon Mcgrath, Sr.

Eric Polzin, So.

Steve Clifford, Sr.

**Season Preview:**

The men's golf team will open their season on Sept. 10-11 at the Bemidji Invitational. Ken Pratt will have 10 golfers competing for the top six positions. Pratt coached the team from 1988-98 and his teams were runners-up in the MIAC tournament in 1988-89, 93-94 and 97-98. The Oles will compete in five tournaments this fall and will be in Northfield at the Carleton Invitational on Sept. 17-18. "I'm very excited to begin the golf program again and we're looking forward to a great season," commented Pratt.

#### University of St. Thomas

**Head Coach:** Dave Landry (4th season)

**1999 MIAC Chapionship:** 4th

**Key Returners:** (Name, Yr, Highlight)

Mike Wilhelm, SR (3X All-MIAC)

Dave Bonk, SR

Brian Nordin, SR

Luke Tierney, SO

John Weiberg, SO

Joel Hall, SO

Matt Rasmussen, JR  
Tim Jandro, SR

**Season Preview:**

Thanks to a strong spring, the St. Thomas men's golf team finished 1999-2000 as the No. 25 ranked Division III team in the nation by GolfStat. Last spring, the Tommies won the 11-team Carleton Invite, and led the 14-team Minnesota State-Mankato Invite after one round before tying for fifth place with an impressive 586 score. Under fourth-year Coach Dave Landry, the Tommies are looking for even more success in 2000-2001. Senior Mike Wilhelm, a three-time All-MIAC honoree, placed fourth out of 45 golfers at the 1999 MIAC championships with rounds of 77-76/153. UST took fourth of nine teams at 634 -- two strokes out of third place. Senior Dave Bonk had a strong spring season. He won medalist honors at the Minnesota State-Mankato Spring Invite, with back-to-back rounds of 1-under-par 70. UST had six other returners. The top newcomers include freshman Mark Niles of Fargo (N.D.) South. UST is the host school for the Oct. 6-7 MIAC Championships to be held at Bunker Hills Golf Course in Coon Rapids. The Toms have placed second, fourth and fourth in the last three conference tournaments.

1999-00 Links - 2000 NCAA Men's Golf Championships: GAC / SJU finish 6th, 7th, ([Results](#) / [Story](#)) [1999 MIAC Men's Golf Championship](#)

**1999 MIAC Men's Golf Championship Tournament**

October 8 - 9, 1999

Bunker Hills Golf Course, Coon Rapids

**Final Team Scores:**

	<b>R1</b>	<b>R2</b>	<b>Total</b>
St. John's	310	305	615
Gustavus	314	313	627
Augsburg	315	317	632
St. Thomas	321	313	634
Bethel	321	318	639
Concordia	318	332	650
St. Mary's	332	328	660
Carleton	340	342	682
Macalester	350	353	703