

## 2001 MIAC MEN'S GOLF PREVIEW

The 2001 MIAC Men's Golf season will be getting underway soon and much excitement is in the air. Look for Saint John's University, two time defending MIAC Champion and seventh place finisher at the 2001 NCAA Championship, to continue their winning ways as they return an experienced squad. Watch for Gustavus Adolphus College to challenge SJU as they try and recapture the MIAC title which they held for 16 out of 17 years prior to the Johnnies winning the past two championships.

The 2001 MIAC Men's Golf Championship is set for October 5 and 6 at Bunker Hills in Coon Rapids, Minn.

<b>Augsburg College</b>		
<b>Head Coach:</b>	Brian Ammann (13th season)	
<b>2000 Record:</b>	3rd at MIAC Championship	
<b>Key Returners:</b>	Nate Kruger (Sr., Litchfield, Minn.), 78.05 scoring ave., All-MIAC; junior college All-American at Bethany Lutheran. Thaddeus Bloberger (Sr., St. Michael, Minn.), No. 3 golfer last season, 78.86 scoring average. Sean Anderson (Sr., Fargo, N.D.), returned to team in spring 2001; 79.00 stroke average in spring 2001. Kevin Sanft (Sr., St. Paul, Minn.), No. 5 golfer on team last season, 79.29 scoring average.	
<b>Season Preview:</b>	<p>Consistency will be the mantra for the Augsburg College men's golf team in 2001-02. Returning all but two of the team's mainstays from last season and having a deep lineup with seven seniors will be obvious strengths for the Auggies.</p> <p>However, developing a consistent varsity lineup, with low scores from one round to the next, has been the Auggies' Achilles heel the last two seasons, head coach Brian Ammann admits. It's a problem that has to be rectified for the Auggies to contend for the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference championship for the first time since 1995, and a team berth in the NCAA Division III national championships for the first time since 1997.</p> <p>"This team has a chance to be very good, but we have to develop some kind of consistency," said Ammann, entering his 13th season as Augsburg's coach. "We have a group of guys that can shoot 72 or lower, but it's the consistency factor. We don't expect them to shoot 72 every time out, but we need to get consistent scores in the 70s. The big mystery will be how consistent this team can be."</p> <p>Augsburg has finished third the past three seasons in a row in the fall MIAC championships. Plus, the Auggies have the burden of competing in the toughest conference and district in the nation in NCAA Division III golf. The district produced three of the top 10 teams in the Division III national championships last season, including defending national champion Wisconsin-Eau Claire and MIAC foes Gustavus Adolphus (fifth) and St. John's (seventh). Augsburg ended up ranked eighth in the district's final rankings last spring.</p> <p>Complete preview can be found at: <a href="http://www.augsburg.edu/athletics/golf/0102mpreview.html">www.augsburg.edu/athletics/golf/0102mpreview.html</a></p>	

<b>Bethel College</b>		
<b>Head Coach:</b>	Bill Shulenberg (9th season)	
<b>2000 Record:</b>	5th place at MIAC Championship	
<b>Key Returners:</b>	Todd Peterson, Senior, Des Moines, IA Peter Yankowiak, Junior, Mora, MN Kasey Kirby, Junior, Lake Forest, IL	
<b>Season Preview:</b>	Senior Todd Peterson, an All-MIAC selection last year, returns to lead Bethel in the 2001 season. Peterson shot 79-76 in the conference meet to finish in 10th place. The Royals are looking to continue to climb in the MIAC after their fifth place finish last season. Also looking to contribute are juniors Peter Yankowiak and Kasey Kirby.	

<b>Carleton College</b>		
<b>Head Coach:</b>	John Ellinger (9th season)	
<b>2000 Record:</b>	9th at MIAC Championship	

<b>Key Returners:</b>	Matt Stangl, Sr., 75.73 stroke average, two-time All-MIAC Andrew Liesch, So., 82.93 stroke average in 2000-01
<b>Season Preview:</b>	The 2001-02 campaign will again become the Matt Stangl watch for Carleton, as the senior tries to build on his performance from last season and qualify for the NCAA Tournament. Stangl will need to find consistency if he is to establish himself as the top player in the MIAC. An opening-round 81 prevented him from contending for individual medalist honors at the MIAC Championships last season, although he rebounded to post a 1-over par 73 the final day, finishing sixth. Andrew Liesch came on strong in the fall and could give the Knights a strong second man in the rotation. Ellinger has 13 players on the 2001 roster, and hopes that some depth will emerge from these players to support Stangl and Liesch.

<u>Concordia College</u>		
Head Coach:	Peter Hovde (3rd season)	
2000 Record:	5th place tie at MIAC Championship	
Key Returners:	TBA	
Season Preview:	TBA	

<b><u>Gustavus Adolphus College</u></b>		
<b>Head Coach:</b>	Scott Moe (6th season)	
<b>2000 Record:</b>	2nd at MIAC Championship	
<b>Key Returners:</b>	Neil Johnson, SO, 13th at 2001 NCAA Championships (All-America) and 6th at 2000 MIAC Championships. Luke Benoit, SO, 23rd at 2001 NCAA Championships (All-America), 15th at 2000 MIAC Championships. Dan Suedbeck, JR, Redwood Falls, Minn., 93rd at 2001 NCAA Championships, 26th at 2000 MIAC Championships.	
<b>Season Preview:</b>	Coach Scott Moe returns three players from a squad that finished fifth at last year's NCAA Championships. The returners include sophomore Neil Johnson (River Falls, Wisc.) who earned All-America honors with a 13th place finish at the NCAA Championships, sophomore Luke Benoit (SO, Faribault, Minn.) who earned honorable mention All-America honors with a 23rd place finish, and junior Dan Suedbeck (Redwood Falls, Minn.) who placed 93rd at the national tournament. Moe will need to replace All-America Chad Gustafson and Academic All-America Robb Trenda, who were both four-year standouts for the Gusties. Competition for the two open spots should be furious as five second team players return from a year ago as well as five talented newcomers.	

<b>Macalester College</b>		
<b>Head Coach:</b>	Martha Nause (2nd season)	
<b>2000 Record:</b>	9th place at MIAC Championship	
<b>Key Returners:</b>	Mark Flynn, Sr. Alex Loesch, Jr.	
<b>Season Preview:</b>	Eli Amerson (Sr., Port Townsend, WA) enjoyed another good season as the No. 1 player on Coach Martha Nause's Macalester golf team in '00. An All-MIAC performer in 1999 when he took ninth as a sophomore, Amerson was eighth out of 43 golfers at the Carleton Invitational last year. Mark Flynn (Sr., Madison, WI / West) was Mac's top scorer at the season-ending MIAC tournament, and like Amerson, is looking forward to what should be an excellent senior season. Alex Loesch (Jr., Kimball, MN / St. Cloud Cathedral) was Mac's top scorer at the St. John's Invitational and also returns to the Macalester lineup. Macalester begins the fall season Sept. 9-10 at the Augsburg Invitational. The Scots then play in the St. John's Invitational, the Carleton Invitational, and the Golf on the River Tournament at Mississippi Dunes before closing out the conference meet at Bunker Hills Oct. 5-6.	

<b>Saint John's University</b>		
<b>Head Coach:</b>	Bob Alpers (9th season at SJU)	

<b>2000 Record:</b>	7th place nationally / 1st place MIAC Champion
<b>Key Returners:</b>	Sammy Schmitz, Jr., 2X-All-American, 14th place at 2001 NCAA meet, 2X-All-MIAC, sixth place at 2000 MIAC meet. Nathan Proshek, So., 2001 All-District V selection, 20th place at 2001 NCAA meet, 2001 MIAC Freshman of the Year. Paul Ponath, Jr., All-MIAC, third place at 2000 MIAC meet.
<b>Season Preview:</b>	<p>The Saint John's University golf team enters the 2001-02 season with the experience and excitement of just completing the two most successful golf seasons in school history. The Johnnies are the two-time defending MIAC champions and have finished seventh at both the 2000 and 2001 NCAA Division III national golf championships. SJU returns two individuals that have national tournament experience, along with a host of other talented golfers. Leading the way for SJU in 2001-02 will be junior Sammy Schmitz, Farmington, and sophomore Nathan Proshek, New Prague. Schmitz finished tied for 14th at the 2001 NCAA meet to earn All-America honors for the second consecutive season. Schmitz is a two-time All-MIAC selection as he tied for sixth at the 2000 MIAC meet. Proshek, named the MIAC's Freshman of the Year and an All-District V selection, tied for 20th at the 2001 NCAA meet. The Johnnies will also return junior All-MIAC player Paul Ponath, St. Cloud. Ponath finished third at last season's MIAC meet.</p> <p>Complete preview found at: <a href="http://www.csbsju.edu/sjusports/golfpreview01.htm">www.csbsju.edu/sjusports/golfpreview01.htm</a></p>

<b>Saint Mary's University</b>	
<b>Head Coach:</b>	Tom Farren (4th season)
<b>2000 Record:</b>	8th at MIAC Championship
<b>Key Returners:</b>	Matt Konicek, Sr. (83.3 avg.) Kyle Sabot, So. (82.2 avg.) Paul Hable, Sr. (91.9 avg.)
<b>Season Preview:</b>	<p>In the sport of golf, the lower the number, the better. And Saint Mary's University golf coaches Tom Farren and Dan Messmann would like nothing better than to see some low numbers from their respective golfers this season. Yet, while it's the low numbers on the scorecard that Farren and Messmann are hoping to see a lot of, it's the big numbers on the roster that have the Cardinal head coaches smiling.</p> <p>Farren expects his men's roster to reach as high as 16, while Messmann, who spent the majority of last season struggling just to get enough golfers to field a complete team of four, enters this season with 11 women on his preseason roster. "Right now our goal is to field two teams of five for each of our first three matches, with the top five then playing the last two big meets of the season (the Twin Cities Classic and the MIAC Championships)," explained Farren. "To have 10, 11, 12 guys battling for those precious five spots - that kind of competition is very healthy."</p> <p>With the graduation of team-leader Bryan Heim, Farren will be looking for captain Matt Konicek (Wauconda, Ill.) and veterans Tony Headrick (Oakdale, Minn.), Paul Hable (Shoreview, Minn.) and Kyle Sabot (Arden Hills, Minn.) to steer the Cardinals' ship.</p> <p>The Cardinals will once again be led by Kris Klimmek (Jordan, Minn.), who finished with a team-leading 95.5 stroke average as a freshman a year ago, carding rounds of 99 or less in seven of the team's eight rounds, while adding rounds of 87, 88, 89 and 90 during the team's spring season.</p> <p>"I'm not going to get too caught up in what kind of scores we shoot," admitted Messmann, who did note that a team score of 390 would be a realistic goal for his team to shoot for. "I'm excited about the year and the women are, too. "Everyone's eager to get out there and see what they can do."</p> <p>Complete preview can be found at: <a href="http://www.smumn.edu/sports/golf/2001/newsletter/gpreview.html">www.smumn.edu/sports/golf/2001/newsletter/gpreview.html</a></p>

<b>St. Olaf College</b>	
<b>Head Coach:</b>	Ken Pratt (14th season)
<b>2000 Record:</b>	7th at MIAC Championship

<b>Key Returners:</b>	Brandt Uthus, So. Brian Odlaug, Sr. Eric Polzin, Jr.
<b>Season Preview:</b>	The 2001 Men's Golf Team will be returning all of its top players from a year ago. These golfers will be trying to improve on a 7th place finish in The MIAC Championships and as well as tournaments through out the season. This team has gained valuable experience having completed a full season in 2000 after a two-year hiatus from varsity competition. Many of the team members had not competed since high school. The top golfers returning are Brandt Uthus('04, Mindot, ND.), Brian Odlaug('02, Maplewood, Minn.), Erik Polzin('03, Bloomington, Minn.). There will be keen competition from returning players as well as newcomers to try to crack the top five spots on the roster. The Ole's hope to improve and move up in the conference standings. Coach Pratt said "With the experience we gained last year, we have higher expectations for our success in 2001."

<b>University of St. Thomas</b>		
<b>Head Coach:</b>	Dave Landry (6th season)	
<b>2000 Record:</b>	4th at MIAC Championship	
<b>Key Returners:</b>	Luke Tierney, JR John Weiberg, JR Matt Rasmussen, SR Mark Niles, SO	
<b>Season Preview:</b>	The Tommies graduated four-time All-MIAC honoree Mike Wilhelm and Dave Bonk, but return at least four experienced players. The Toms finished fourth in the 2000 confernece meet but were only three strokes behind runner-up Gustavus. The Toms didn't beat NAA top-eight finishers Gustavus and St. John's last fall or spring but went 21-3 against all other MIAC teams.	

### 2000 MIAC Men's Golf Championship Tournament

October 6 - 7, 2000

Bunker Hills Golf Course, Coon Rapids

### 2000 Final Team Scores:

	<b>R1</b>	<b>R2</b>	<b>Total</b>
St. John's	309	300	609
Gustavus	309	319	628
Augsburg	314	316	630
St. Thomas	319	312	631
Bethel	322	318	640
Concordia	329	311	640
St. Olaf	339	335	674
St. Mary's	341	338	679
Carleton	348	344	692
Macalester	364	362	726