

2003 MIAC MEN'S GOLF PREVIEW

The 2003 MIAC Men's Golf season is underway. Gustavus Adolphus College, lead by last seasons MIAC coach of the year Scott Moe, are the defending champions. They will attempt to return to their MIAC dominance, as they were champions 16 out of 17 years during the mid 1980's -1990's. However, Saint John's University , winners of three of the past five MIAC Golf Championships, will look to reclaim their spot at the top. Last year Saint John's placed second in the MIAC Championships and went on to tie for third at the NCAA Men's Golf Championships. This season Saint Johns returns three players that have NCAA championship experience. One of which, senior Nathan Proshek, finished second at the 2003 NCAA Championships and earned All-American status. The Gusties also return two All- American honorees Neil Johnson and Luke Benoit. Johnson earned first-team honors with his fourth place (tie) finish at NCAA's , while Benoit took second-team honors. Also watch for St. Thomas and Concordia to compete for the MIAC title. Last season the schools finished 3rd and 4th respectively at the MIAC Championships, and both return expereinced players and have promising newcomers.

The 2003 MIAC Men's Golf Championship is set for October 3 and 4 at Bunker Hills in Coon Rapids, Minn.

Augsburg College		
Head Coach:	Brian Ammann (15th season)	
2002 Record:	5th at MIAC Championships	
Key Returners:	T.J. Sybilrud (Jr., Eden Prairie, Minn.), second on team in scoring in 2002-03 with 79.41 stroke average; 79.47 career stroke average (37.5 rounds). Nick Collins (Sr., Green Bay, Wis./Green Bay Notre Dame HS), lone senior on team, fourth on team in scoring in 2002-03 with 80.46 stroke average; 81.00 career stroke average (43.0 rounds). Nick Krasin (Jr., Appleton, Wis./Appleton West HS), third on team in scoring in 2002-03 with 79.71 stroke average; 79.92 career stroke average (26.0 rounds). Evan Holmes (So., Janesville, Minn./Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton HS), fifth on eam in scoring in 2002-03 with 80.59 stroke average.	

Season Preview:	<p>A comment by his assistant coach last season served as a "wake-up call" for Augsburg College men's golf head coach Brian Ammann.</p> <p>"He looked at me and said that we don't have the depth that's required for us to really compete, and we need to increase the talent pool," said Ammann of a comment by assistant coach Josh Klimek, who was a member of Auggie golf squads that qualified for three straight NCAA Division III national tournaments in the mid-1990s.</p> <p>A record recruiting class of 13 freshmen accepted the challenge of Ammann and Klimek, and combined with nine returning letterwinners, the Auggies will have their largest roster ever to enter the 2003-04 season.</p> <p>It's a roster that's so large that Ammann will probably have to cut some players to get to a manageable roster of 16 golfers, in order to maximize the team's practice time at its home course.</p> <p>In spite of the fact that 19 of the 22 golfers entering the season are underclassmen, Ammann is confident in the talent ability of his squad, both the returners and newcomers.</p> <p>It's a promising sign for improvement for an Augsburg squad that has established a level of consistency within the competitive Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference, a league that had two teams -- St. John's (third) and Gustavus Adolphus (sixth) -- finish in the top 10 in last season's NCAA Division III national tournament. Augsburg finished fifth in last fall's MIAC championships, finishing out of the top four in the league for the first time since 1993.</p> <p>Though the 13 freshmen will definitely make an impact, there are several returners who will fight hard to keep their spots in the top five for tournaments.</p> <p>T.J. Sybilrud (Jr., Eden Prairie, Minn.) has been one of Augsburg's most consistent golfers in recent years, with a 79.53 stroke average (18 holes) in his career. Working his average into the mid-70s is definitely a possibility this season, Ammann noted.</p> <p>The team's lone senior, Nick Collins (Sr., Green Bay, Wis./Notre Dame HS), has show steady improvement in his three seasons, edging his stroke average to a career-best 80.46 last season. Developing a level of consistency with scores in the mid-70s will be a key to his success this season, Ammann said.</p> <p>Nick Krasin (Jr., Appleton, Wis./Appleton West HS) and Evan Holmes (So., Janesville, Minn./Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton HS) both showed promise last year, as Krasin had a 79.71 average (third-best on the team) and Holmes had a 80.59 average (fifth-best).</p> <p>Jon Ahlgren, Ron Barkosky (So., Coon Rapids, Minn.), Blake Luethmers (So., Park Falls, Wis.), Anthony Haupt (So., Red Wing, Minn.) and Anders Dybdahl (So., Plymouth, Minn./Shattuck-St. Mary's HS) also return with experience from last season, but will need to continue to show improvement in order to make an impact on the team, Ammann said.</p> <p>The large group of freshmen is led by Andrew Johnson (Fr., New Hope, Minn./Robbinsdale Armstrong HS), who finished sixth at the 2003 Minnesota Class AA state championships and also was a success on the Minnesota junior golf tour this summer.</p> <p>Ammann described Brian May (Fr., Rosemount, Minn.) as possibly the most talented freshman he has recruited. A state tournament qualifier as a junior, he is considered one of the top young golfers in the south metro area, Ammann said.</p> <p>Jake Dorsey (Fr., Apple Valley, Minn.), a 21-year-old freshman, spent three years training at the San Diego Golf Academy before returning to Minnesota to begin his collegiate career.</p> <p>Tom Erickson (Fr., Apple Valley, Minn.) has been a consistent golfer in the mid-70s in prep golf, Ammann said. Erik Helgersen (Fr., Chisago City, Minn./Chisago Lakes HS) and Dustin Lauby (Fr., Minneapolis, Minn./Southwest HS) both competed at the state tournament in the spring.</p> <p>Three golfers enter the program from 2002 state Class A tournament qualifier United South Central High School -- Ryan Treptow (Fr., Wells, Minn./United South Central HS), Chris Adams (Fr., Freeborn, Minn./United South Central HS) and Justin Knutson (Fr., Wells, Minn./United South Central HS).</p> <p>Jon Cooley (Fr., La Crosse, Wis./Central HS) competed in the Wisconsin state tournament as a sophomore, while Ryan Bentley (Fr., Lake Geneva, Wis./Badger HS), Tony Wernsing (Fr., Chokio, Minn./Chokio-Alberta HS) and Eric Harder (Fr., Maple Grove, Minn.) also will enter the Auggie program.</p>
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Bethel College		
Head Coach:	Bill Shulenberg (11th season)	

2002 Record:	10th place at MIAC Championships	
Key Returners:	<p>Tim Brovold, Junior, Andover, Minn. Lucas Bonstrom, Sophomore, Eagan, Minn.</p> <p>Rich Sauer, Junior, Wells, Minn.</p>	
Season Preview:	<p>After a disappointing 10th place finish at the 2002 MIAC men's golf championships, the 2003 Royals will be looking to regain the form that allowed them to finish in the middle of the MIAC in recent years.</p> <p>Head coach Bill Schulenberg will count on several underclassmen, including juniors Tim Brovold and Rich Sauer and sophomore Lucas Bonstrom. Bonstrom finished in a tie for 31st at last year's conference championships and Brovold and Sauer finished in a tie for 40th.</p> <p>Several incoming freshmen will vie for a spot in the top six to help Bethel's climb in the standings</p>	

Carleton College		
Head Coach:	Phil Zrimsek (2nd season)	
2002 Record:	6th at MIAC Championships	
Key Returners:	<p>Andrew Liesch (Sr./Minneapolis/St. Louis Park), co-captain, third on team with 83.44 stroke average in 2002-03</p> <p>Nate Larsen (Sr./Concord, N.H.), co-captain, 86.29 stroke average third on team with 83.44 stroke average in 2002-03</p> <p>Ryan Deisler (Jr./Saginaw, Mich./Heritage), led team with 82.16 stroke average in 2002-03,</p> <p>Alec Friedhof (Jr./Seattle/Roosevelt), second on team with 82.76 stroke average in 2002-03</p> <p>Matt Yelle (So./Wadena, Minn.), stroke average of 84.00 in 2002-03</p>	
Season Preview:	<p>Fresh off their best MIAC Championships finish in the 15 years that Carleton has been part of the conference, the Carleton men's golf team seeks even more in 2003-04.</p> <p>Carleton's optimism stems from the fact that five letterwinners return from last year's squad. The addition of a talented first-year player and a renewed focus from the returners has head coach Phil Zrimsek pointing towards a rise in finishes and fall in scores in his second season in charge of his alma mater's program.</p> <p>Junior Ryan Deisler paced the Knights in stroke average a year ago, but a very balanced line-up means that any of the starting five could post a top score in any given tournament. Alec Friedhof showed he's capable of going low, as his opening round of even-par 36 at the MIAC Championships put him with the leaders. [The MIAC Championships first round was shortened to nine holes by rain in 2002.] Senior Andrew Liesch has been one of Carleton's most consistent presences in the line-up over the past three seasons. If he and fellow senior and co-captain Nate Larsen can consistently post solid scores, the Knights could find themselves climbing the proverbial MIAC ladder in 2003-04. Sophomore Matt Yelle, in only his second year of competitive golf, could give Zrimsek a strong player at the bottom of the line-up.</p> <p>First-year player Eric Udelhofen joins the team after a successful prep career in Colorado where he qualified for the state tournament.</p>	

Concordia College		
Head Coach:	Troy Odegaard (2nd season)	
2002 Record:	4th place at MIAC Championships	
Key Returners:	<p>Carl Hunt Jr., Crookston, Minn./Crookston HS - 2002 MIAC All-Conference. Finished tied for ninth at the 2002 MIAC Championship Tournament. Had a team-low 77.0 scoring average in 2002.</p> <p>Mike Lundberg So., White Bear Lake, Minn./White Bear Lake HS - 2002 MIAC All-Conference. Finished tied for ninth at the 2002 MIAC Championship Tournament. Carded a 79.6 scoring average in 2002.</p>	

Season Preview:	Concordia men's golf head coach Troy Odegaard enters his second full season at the helm of the Cobber team with a huge question to answer, "Who will come after Hunt and Lundberg?" Concordia returns only two the team's top five golfers from 2002.
	The top two spots will be filled by junior Carl Hunt and sophomore Mike Lundberg. Both golfers earned MIAC All-Conference honors in 2002 by finishing in a tie for ninth place. Hunt will carry the load of being the squad's number one golfer. He led the team in scoring in 2002, carding a 77.0 average over the season's 12 rounds. He was also the team's medalist in three of the tournaments last fall. Despite coming off a sub-par showing in the spring, Hunt should be in the thick of every individual medalist race for all six tournament the Cobbers are entered in this fall.
	Hunt's partner in crime will be Mike Lundberg. Lundberg peaked at the MIAC Championship tournament in 2002, finishing in a tie for ninth and earning all-conference honors. He will benefit from a year's experience and should cut down the ups and downs he went through in his first year.
	The key to Concordia's success will be to find three solid golfers to back Hunt and Lundberg. One of the golfers that could vie for the top spots is senior Andrew Beliveau. Beliveau was sixth in scoring for the Cobbers in 2002. He competed in 9 of the team's 12 rounds and has shown a consistency to shoot in the middle 70's. After Beliveau, Odegaard will have to turn to a group of untested upperclassmen and first-year faces. If the Cobbers can come up with a tough trio to go along with the team's dynamic duo then the team could ease into the top four at the 2003 MIAC Tournament.

Gustavus Adolphus College		
Head Coach:	Scott Moe (8th season)	
2002 Record:	1st at MIAC Championships	
Key Returners:	Neil Johnson, SR, River Falls, Wisconsin (4th at NCAA Championships, 1st Team All-America) Luke Benoit, SR, Faribault, MN (12th at NCAA Championships, 2nd Team All-America) Brent Borgstahl, SR, St. Peter, MN (74th at NCAA Championships) Josh Segal, FY, Eagan, MN (Finished 5th in Class AA State Tournament last year) Chase Thonvold, FY, Willmar, MN (Participated in Class AA State Tournament last year)	
Season Preview:	<p>The Gusties return three players from a squad that won the MIAC Championship and finished sixth at the NCAA Championships last May. In addition, Head Coach Scott Moe welcomes back four letterwinners eager to earn a spot in the top five and a very talented freshman class that includes Josh Segal, from Eagan, who finished fifth in the Class AA Minnesota State High School Tournament last spring.</p> <p>The core of the squad will be seniors Neil Johnson, Luke Benoit and Brent Borgstahl. Johnson finished second at the MIAC Championships last fall and fourth at the NCAA Championships last spring. He is a three-time All-American for the Gusties. Benoit, who was gone last fall to study in India, returned in the spring and finished 12th at the national tournament. He received honorable mention All-America honors in 2002 and was a second team All-American last year. Borgstahl, earned All-Conference honors last year with a fifth place finish at the MIAC Championships and then placed 74th at the NCAA Championships. Upperclassmen battling to work their way into the top five include junior Brady Hoffman (80.0 stroke average), senior Charlie Seitzer, (79.5 stroke average), senior Josh Thimjon, (77.6 stroke average), and senior Ryan Morse, (80.3 stroke average). In addition, Coach Moe has brought in an impressive recruiting class that includes several individuals who may be able to work their way into the lineup. That group includes Jeremy and Josh Segal of Eagan, Minn., Chase Thonvold of Willmar, Minn., Tony Oberle of LeSueur, Minn., Nicholas Greve of Annandale, Minn. and Brian Zard of Caledonia, Minn.</p> <p>The squads fall schedule will include competition against many of the top teams in the midwest and in the country. The team will take part in the UW-Eau Claire Invite and Twin Cities Classic in September and the MIAC Championships and the Division III Gordin Classic in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina in early October.</p>	

Macalester College		
Head Coach:	Martha Nause (4th season)	
2002 Record:	9th place at MIAC Championships	

Key Returners:	Kramer Lawson (Jr., Kenmore, Wash. / Nathan Hale Wes McFarland (Jr., Arden Hills, Minn. / Mounds View)
Season Preview:	<p>The Macalester Scots appear to be in a good position to be a much-improved team for the 2003 Fall season under third-year head coach Martha Nause. Macalester is optimistic about moving up a few spots after settling for a disappointing ninth-place Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (MIAC) finish a year ago.</p> <p>Nearly everyone returns to the Mac lineup, including the team's top golfer, Kramer Lawson (Jr., Kenmore, WA / Nathan Hale). The team's low-scorer in every tournament last year, Lawson is coming off a solid Spring season where he placed ninth out of 99 golfers at the St. John's Invitational and 18th out of 99 at the Wartburg Invitational. He took 18th out of 50 at last year's MIAC championships.</p> <p>The Scots also return Wes McFarland (Jr., Arden Hills, MN / Mounds View), who was the team's No. 2 player in all but one tournament last year. Zack Youmans (Jr., Rochester, MN / Pine Island) is another key returner to the Macalester lineup. Some talented newcomers are also expected to play a big role for the Scots this season.</p> <p>"I am very excited about the prospects of the team and expect that we will be a much improved team," said Coach Nause. "The ability of the newcomers combined with the experience of the returners gives us the most talented team we've had since I've been here. I am expecting to turn a few heads in the MIAC this year."</p>

<u>Saint John's University</u>		
Head Coach:	Bob Alpers (11th season at SJU)	
2002 Record:	2nd place at MIAC Championships	
Key Returners:	<p>Nathan Proshek, Sr., New Prague - 2nd place at 2003 NCAA Championships; two-time Central Region All-District and All-MIAC selection</p> <p>Josh Sherlin, Jr., Glenwood - 88th place at 2003 NCAA Championships; Central Region All-District in 2003</p> <p>Kyle Fredrickson, So., Eagan - 26th place at 2003 NCAA Championships; MIAC Freshman of the Year in 2003</p> <p>Chad Michelson, So., Marshall</p> <p>Joe McKean, So., Blackduck</p> <p>Andy Stehberger, Sr., Minot, N.D.</p>	
Season Preview:	<p>The Saint John's University golf team enters the 2003 fall season with the most successful season in school history in its recent memory. Last year's team finished tied for third place at the NCAA Championships, which marked the best team finish in school history. SJU has participated in four consecutive NCAA Championships and won three of the last four MIAC titles. The Johnnies are expected to return three players that have NCAA Championship experience.</p> <p>Leading the way for the Johnnies in 2003-04 will be senior Nathan Proshek, New Prague, who finished second at the 2003 NCAA Championships with an even-par score of 284, to earn All-America honors and record the best individual finish by a Johnnie golfer at the NCAA Championships in school history. Proshek, who won three tournaments and had seven top-10 finishes during the 2002-03 season, is a two-time Central Region All-District and All-MIAC selection. Proshek also received GCAA All-America Scholar honors last year for his accomplishments on the golf course and in the classroom.</p> <p>Junior Josh Sherlin, Glenwood, fired a 314, 30-over par score, to finish tied for 88th place at nationals last May. Sherlin was named to the Central Region All-District team for 2002-03 with six top-10 finishes.</p> <p>Sophomore Kyle Fredrickson, Eagan, finished tied for 26th place with a 14-over par score of 298 at last year's NCAA Championships. Fredrickson was also named MIAC Freshman of the Year with four top-10 finishes.</p> <p>SJU's complete 2003 golf season preview can be found at gojohnnies.com/golf/0304preview.html</p>	

<u>Saint Mary's University</u>		
Head Coach:	Tom Farren (6th season)	
2002 Record:	7th at MIAC Championships	

Key Returners:	<p>Eric Thom (Sr., Portland, Ore., 76.6 scoring average)</p> <p>D.J. Schweitzer (Sr., McHenry, Ill, 82.0 scoring average)</p> <p>Tom Johnston (So., St. Paul, Minn., 82.7 scoring average)</p>
Season Preview:	<p>While Messmann is content to take the wait-and-see approach to this season, men's coach Tom Farren isn't so patient.</p> <p>He's tired of having the potential to make a run at the MIAC's top dogs, only to come up lame when the pressure's on.</p> <p>"Every meet we played in last year, we had one good day, and then we had one bad day," said Farren, whose team placed seventh in the MIAC Championships a year ago. "We have got to find a way to put the two rounds together.</p> <p>"I think we have steadily earned the respect of the rest of the teams in the MIAC, but we still need to find a way to get the job done on the course a little better," continued Farren, whose team returns its top two players from a year ago, seniors Eric Thom (Portland, Ore. / 76.6 scoring average) and D.J. Schweitzer (McHenry, Ill. / 82.0 scoring average). "If we are going to make any kind of noise (around the MIAC), we've got to get four or five players who can consistently shoot in the 70s. I thought we were there last year, but we let ourselves down a bit with our inconsistency from day to day."</p>

St. Olaf College		
Head Coach:	LeAnn Finger (1st season)	
2002 Record:	8th at MIAC Championships	
Key Returners:	<p>Brandt Uthus, Sr., Minot, ND</p> <p>Charlie Eggert, Sr., Appleton, Wis.</p> <p>Pat Gilles, Jr., Waunakee, Wis.</p> <p>Bryan Hapka, Jr., Mukwonago, Wis.</p>	
Season Preview:	<p>The 2003 Men's Golf Team will be returning all but two of its top players from last season. These golfers will be trying to improve on a 8th place finish in the MIAC Championships and as well as tournaments through out the season.</p> <p>This team has gained valuable experience, with many letter winners returning this fall. New to the men's golf coaching ranks this season is Head Coach, Le Ann Finger, who has coached the women's team the past five seasons. Joining Finger in the coaching duties is assistant coach Eric Polzin, a 2003 St. Olaf graduate, who played the past four years on the men's team.</p> <p>The Oles will be led by senior returning golfers Brandt Uthus (Sr., Minot, ND)and Charlie Eggert (Appleton, Wis.) Returning after a great 2003 spring season for the Ole men are Pat Gilles (Jr., Waunakee, Wis.) and Bryan Hapka (Jr.,Mukwonago, Wis.). There will be keen competition from returning players as well as newcomers to try earning a spot on the roster. The Oles are excited to have first year player Brian DeLaitsch (Owatonna, Minn.) on the roster.</p> <p>The Ole men won their first tournament in the Spring 2003 season so they will build on that consistent play from the spring season and carry it forward for this fall. Coach Finger said "We have a talented group of men on the team, so I look for us to compete well and move up within the conference standings."</p> <p>www.stolaf.edu/athletics/golf/men/team_information/season_preview.html</p>	

University of St. Thomas		
Head Coach:	Dave Landry (7th season)	
2002 Record:	3rd at MIAC Championships	
Key Returners:	Not Available	

Season Preview:	<p>The Tommie men's golf team begins its fall season Sept. 7-8 at the Bemidji State tournament. Coach Dave Landry's returnees are led by junior All-MIAC honoree Joe Seltz. Other experienced players back include senior Travis Kalis, sophomore Pat Bohn, juniors Brett Egge and Luke Juhl, and senior Andy Bembridge. Several freshmen will also challenge for spots in the top five, including Chris Jensen of Litchfield, Minn., (two wins in the Minnesota Junior PGA Players Tour this summer) and Mark Hadley of Wausau, Wis., (one win in Wisconsin Junior Tour this summer).</p> <p>St. Thomas placed third in the 2002 MIAC Championships -- only four strokes out of first place and only two out of second. The Tommies will look to play consistently throughout the fall and spring as they try to breakthrough and earn an NCAA tournament berth. The 2003 conference tournament is Oct. 3-4 on the Bunker Hills course in Coon Rapids.</p>
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2002 MIAC Men's Golf - [Championship Results and information](#)

2002 Team Results		
1	Gustavus	157-296=453
2	St. John's	154-301=455
3	St. Thomas	155-302=457
4	Concordia	157-301=458
5	Augsburg	165-317=482
6	Carleton	170-324=494
7	St. Mary's	169-332=501
8	St. Olaf	171-332=503
9	Macalester	170-337=507
10	Bethel	181-334=515

2002 All-Conference (Top 10)		
1	Sammy Schmitz, SJU	34-72=106
2	Adam Hanson, CON	36-76=112
	Neil Johnson, GAC	39-73=112
4	Jon Hagedorn, GAC	40-73=113
5	Nathan Proshek, SJU	39-75=114
	Brent Borgstahl, GAC	39-75=114
	Matt West, UST	37-77=114
	Dan Suedbeck, GAC	39-75=114
9	Luke Tierney, UST	38-77=115
	Clarence Hunt, CON	39-76=115
	Mike Lundberg, CON	40-75=115
	Joe Seltz, UST	39-76=115