

2006 MIAC MEN'S GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP PREVIEW

Sept. 30 - Oct. 2, 2006

Bunker Hills Golf Course, Coon Rapids

Host: Macalester College

Championship Website

This Saturday morning ten MIAC men's golf teams will begin a three-day battle for the conference crown and the right to participate in the 2007 NCAA Division III Championship. The three day (Saturday-Monday), 54-hole format is new this year along with the automatic bid to the NCAA Championship for the MIAC team champion. These two changes will surely add drama to this traditionally competitive event.


Two-time reigning MIAC Champion Saint John's leads the list of teams contending for the 2006 title. Gustavus returns a strong team along with Augsburg; both should compete with Saint John's for the top spot. Concordia and St. Thomas tied for fourth a year ago, but the Cobbers and the Tommies both return All-MIAC golfers and will have the potential to win it all. Bethel and Macalester will enter this season's championship with young talented individuals and hope to surprise the conference. Saint Mary's, St. Olaf and Carleton all will look to improve upon last season's results with more experienced golfers.

Eight of the top ten individuals return from last season's MIAC Championship. Leading the group is 2005 medalist Joe Daly of Saint John's, Daly was also last season's MIAC Co-Freshman of the Year. Gustavus junior Jordan Hawkinson (2nd place in 2005) also returns along with Saint John's senior Andrew Longbella (4th at 2005 Championships and 2005 MIAC MVP), St. Thomas junior John Treacy (tied for 5th in 2005), Augsburg junior Andrew Womeldorf (tied for 5th in 2005), Concordia junior Drew Dvorak (8th in 2005), Augsburg senior Erik Helgersen (9th in 2005), and St. Thomas senior Jon Lundeen (9th in 2005).

Augsburg College		
Co-Head Coach:	Ted Vickerman (2nd season) Jim Rustad (2nd season)	
2005 Finish:	3rd at MIAC Championships	
Key Returners:	Andrew Womeldorf (Jr., Northfield, Minn.) Erik Helgersen (Sr., Chisago City, Minn./Chisago Lakes) Andrew Johnson (Sr., New Hope, Minn.)	
Season Preview:	<p>Under second-year co-head coaches Ted Vickerman and Jim Rustad, the Augsburg College men's golf team is having one of its best seasons in recent years, and could be in contention to claim its second MIAC championship. The Auggies' only MIAC title came in 1995, but Augsburg has claimed top-five conference-meet finishes each of the past 12 years.</p> <p>The Auggies will aim to improve from last season's third-place conference finish with a veteran lineup, including six seniors. The group helped lead Augsburg last season with a 307.20 team stroke average, the school's best stroke average since the 1997-98 season.</p> <p>Already this season, Augsburg has made some waves in regional golf circles. In its own invitational tournament Sept. 9-10, the Auggies won with a two-day total of 592, its best 36-round score since the 1997-98 season, while topping perennial regional powers Gustavus, St. Thomas and Simpson (Iowa).</p> <p>The following weekend, the Auggies tied with defending conference champion St. John's for the team title at the St. John's Invitational with a two-day 615 total, again topping Gustavus and St. Thomas, along with strong regional clubs Wisconsin-Eau Claire and Luther (Iowa).</p> <p>All-MIAC golfers Andrew Womeldorf (Jr., Northfield, Minn.) and Erik Helgersen (Sr., Chisago City, Minn./Chisago Lakes HS) return to the Auggie lineup, after finishing fifth and ninth, respectively, at last year's championship. Helgersen has earned all-conference honors twice in his career.</p> <p>Andrew Johnson (Sr., New Hope, Minn.), who led the Auggies last season with a 76.40 stroke average, returns to the lineup, as do Brian May (Sr., Rosemount, Minn.) and Thomas Erickson (Sr., Lakeville, Minn./Apple Valley HS). Other seniors on the Auggie lineup are Tony Wernsing (Sr., Chokio, Minn./Chokio- Alberta HS) and Jake Dorsey (Sr., Apple Valley, Minn.). Kevin Graff (Jr., Red Wing, Minn.) and Josh Henningson (Jr., Monticello, Minn.) join Womeldorf as juniors on the Auggie roster.</p> <p>Last season, Helgersen and Johnson were named as Cleveland Golf Division III All-America Scholars by the Golf Coaches Association of America. Helgersen is an accounting and finance major at Augsburg with a 3.50 cumulative grade-point average, while Johnson is a business administration and economics major with a 3.73 cumulative GPA. Both golfers have earned Academic All-MIAC honors in both their sophomore and junior seasons.</p>	

Bethel University		
Head Coach:	Bill Shulenberg (15th season)	
2005 Finish:	6th at MIAC Championships	
Key Returners:	Judd McCormick Jared Carr Bjorn Hanson	
Season Preview:	The 2006 Bethel Royals look to continue their rise in the MIAC with another solid season. After losing four key players to graduation in co-captain Lucas Bonstrom, co-captain David Franke, Brian Bomgren, and Rob Youngquist, senior captain Judd McCormick looks to play a strong role in their success this season. McCormick was the first Royal to break par since 2000 with his 3-under 69 at the St. John's Invite last fall. Junior Jared Carr and sophomore Bjorn Hanson also hope to help carry the load for the Royals. Bethel also looks for some incoming freshman to make a strong contribution as well.	

Carleton College		
Head Coach:	Phil Zrimsek (5th season)	
2005 Finish:	10th at MIAC Championships	
Key Returners:	Jesse Saucedo (Jr./Diamond Bar, Calif.) Hal Baseman (Chevy Chase, Md./Bethesda-Chevy Chase)	
Season Preview:	<p>Led by the return of junior Jesse Saucedo (Diamond Bar, Calif.) and experience gained by a solid rising sophomore class, Carleton will continue in its quest to move up the MIAC standings in 2006.</p> <p>Saucedo led the team in stroke average in his sophomore campaign and was especially strong in the spring season segment, averaging 78.1 strokes over the seven spring rounds. He'll likely be joined in the starting line-up by sophomore Hal Baseman (Chevy Chase, Md./Bethesda-Chevy Chase), who finished third on the squad last year in scoring average.</p> <p>If the Knights are to improve they'll need immediate contributions from incoming first-year players Trent Wells (Rochester, Minn./Century) and Alec Roman (Portland, Ore./Catlin Gable School) Those two players figure to battle for immediate starting slots with returnees Paul Rotilie (Jr./St. Paul, Minn./St. Paul Academy) and Dan Kuhlmann (Jr./Apple Valley, Minn./Burnsville).</p>	

Concordia College		
Head Coach:	Troy Odegaard (5th season)	
2005 Finish:	Tied for 4th at MIAC Championships	
Key Returners:	Drew Dvorak (Jr., Litchfield, Minn.) Ryan Walsh (So., Atwater, Minn./A-C-GC HS) Max Bauer (Jr., Grand Rapids, Minn.)	

Season Preview:	The 2006 Concordia men's golf team is hoping to take the experience and knowledge gained in 2005 and turn it into a top three finish at this year's MIAC Championship Meet. The Cobbers return four of the five golfers who competed in last year's conference meet, and have added a couple of solid players to give head coach Troy Odegaard a sense of optimism heading into the conference meet.
	The biggest cause for optimism is the return of junior Drew Dvorak (Litchfield, Minn.). Dvorak has earned all-conference honors in his first two seasons and is on track to become one of the few players in Concordia men's golf history to garner MIAC All-Conference honors all four seasons. Dvorak was recently named the MIAC Men's Golfer of the Week after his runner-up finish at the highly competitive Erv Kaiser Invitational hosted by NCAA Division I member North Dakota State University. Dvorak is tied for the team lead in stroke average (74.0) and has a pair of top five finishes under his belt this season.
	Max Bauer (Jr., Grand Rapids, Minn.), a transfer from Itasca Community College, has made the biggest splash of any newcomer this season. Bauer finished in a tie for sixth place at the Bemidji State Invitational and is currently tied with Dvorak for the team lead in stroke average this season (74.0). Bauer also finished in a tie for eighth place in the very first meet of the season.
	The other top five spots on the Cobber championship squad should be filled out by Ryan Walsh (So., Atwater, Minn./A-C-GC HS), Sam Frick (Jr., Walker, Minn.) and Jonathan Northard (Jr., Grand Rapids, Minn.). Walsh and Frick are veterans of the MIAC Championship Meet. Both players finished in the top 15 at last year's conference meet and both have shown signs of improvement in 2006. Northard transferred from Minnesota State last winter and competed with the Cobbers during the spring season. All three players have a stroke average of 77 in 2006 and all three have posted several scores in the low 70's.

Gustavus Adolphus College		
Head Coach:	Scott Moe (11th season)	
2005 Finish:	2nd at MIAC Championships	
Key Returners:	Jordan Hawkinson (Jr., Lindstrom, Minn.) Mark Stuckey (Jr., St. Peter, Minn.) Erik Tone (Sr., Willmar, Minn.) Eric Harris (Jr., Eden Prairie, Minn.)	
Season Preview:	<p>The Gustavus Adolphus men's golf team will be looking for its 25th league title this weekend at Bunker Hills Golf Course, hoping to break the two-year hold that Saint John's has put on the MIAC Men's Golf Championship. The Johnnies and Gusties have split the last ten MIAC Men's Golf Championships with each school winning five.</p> <p>"Saint John's will be tough. The nice thing is that the conference tournament is a three-day event and at the end the best team will shine," noted Head Coach Scott Moe.</p> <p>Three of five golfers return from last year's conference runner-up squad, including junior Jordan Hawkinson. Hawkinson fired the second-lowest round of the championship last season as he charged into a tie for runner-up medalist honors with a final-round 71. This season, Hawkinson is second on the team in scoring average and posted a top ten finish (tie-eighth) at the season-opening Augsburg Invitational.</p> <p>Erik Tone has led the Gusties this season with a team-best 76.3 scoring average. Tone finished tenth at the Augsburg Invite and posted the top Gustie finish at the Saint John's Invite with a tie for 13th place. Tone and Mark Stuckey each fired a 71 during the Augsburg Invitational, tying for the low Gustavus round of the season.</p> <p>Junior Eric Harris and first-year Ricky Copeland (Fr., Mahtomedi, Minn.) round out the top five for the Gusties. Harris tied Hawkinson for the top Gustie finish at the Augsburg Invitational (tie-eighth), while Copeland was second after day one of the Saint John's meet before falling back into the pack on day two. Copeland has a 77.5 stroke average this season.</p> <p>Arie DeGrio (Jr., Grand Rapids, Minn.), A.J. Olson (Fr., White Bear Lake, Minn.) and Kyle Rohlfs (Jr., Fergus Falls, Minn.) have each fared well through two events so far this season and may break into Gustavus' top lineup. DeGrio finished tied for 25th at the Augsburg Invitational and has a low round of 76, while Olson and Rohlfs have 80.3 stroke averages.</p>	

Macalester College		
Head Coach:	Martha Nause (7th season)	
2005 Finish:	7th at MIAC Championships	

Key Returners:	<p>Eric Kelsey (Jr., Hilton Head, S.C.)</p> <p>Chris Olson (Jr., Tokyo, Japan)</p> <p>Ryan Peters (Fr., Kohler, Wis.)</p>
Season Preview:	<p>Macalester has placed seventh at the past two conference tournaments and is looking to move up under Coach Martha Nause. Key newcomer Ryan Peters (Fr., Kohler, Wis.) led the team at the season-opening Augsburg Tournament with an 18th-place 156 score, while the team's low scorer at the St. John's Invitational was Eric Kelsey (Jr., Hilton Head, S.C.) with a 164. Chris Olson (Jr., Tokyo, Japan) has been consistent the last two years and was the team's No. 2 golfer at Augsburg and St. John's with two-round scores of 160 and 166. The Scots opened the season with a dual against St. Mary's and received team-leading 78 scores from Kelsey and Ben Finkenbinder (Sr., Bethesda, Md.).</p>

Saint John's University		
Head Coach:	Bob Alpers (14th season)	
2005 Finish:	1st at MIAC Championships	
Key Returners:	<p>Andrew Longbella (Sr., Chippewa Falls, Wis./McDonnell)</p> <p>Joe Schoolmeesters (So., Litchfield, Minn./Litchfield)</p> <p>Clinton Dammann (Jr., Glencoe, Minn./Glencoe-Silver Lake)</p> <p>Joe Daly (So., Owatonna, Minn./Owatonna)</p>	
Season Preview:	<p>The Saint John's University golf team will attempt to make it three in a row as the Johnnies look to defend its 2004 and 2005 MIAC titles at the 2006 MIAC Championships on Sept. 30-Oct. 2 at Bunker Hills Golf Club in Coon Rapids.</p> <p>Saint John's will return senior Andrew Longbella (Chippewa Falls, Wis./McDonnell), the MIAC Player of the Year in 2005. Longbella was also named a Golf Coaches Association of American All-America Scholar, a Golf Coaches Association All-District Selection, and an NCAA Division III All-American Third Team selection. At the NCAA Tournament, Longbella tallied a four-round total of 313 to finish tied for 51st place.</p> <p>Another returnee for SJU is sophomore Joe Schoolmeesters (Litchfield, Minn./Litchfield) who was named the 2005 Co-MIAC Freshman of the Year. He also accumulated other honors including the Golf Coaches Association District Freshman of the Year and Golf Coaches Association All-District Selection. Schoolmeesters had a 311 four round total finishing tied for 45th at the NCAA Tournament. The other Co-MIAC Freshman of the Year, Joe Daly (Owatonna, Minn./Owatonna), is also returning for SJU this season.</p> <p>To begin the 2006 season, Saint John's placed first out of seventeen teams at the Bemidji State Invitational on September 10-11. Schoolmeesters claimed medalist honors with a two-day total of 137 (-7). Junior Clinton Dammann (Glencoe, Minn./Glencoe-Silver Lake) ended the day tied for sixth with a two-day total of 145 (+1), and Longbella finished 13th with a total of 148 (+4).</p> <p>On September 16-17, SJU hosted its annual invitational. The Johnnies tied for first place with Augsburg after a two-day team total of 615. Junior Nate Geiger (Faribault, Minn./Faribault) was SJU's top finisher placing second with a score of 149 (+5). Saint John's also had six other golfers place in the top 12.</p> <p>Coach Bob Alpers is in his 14th season as head golf coach at Saint John's University in 2006-07. The 2005 GCAA Eaton Golf Pride Regional Coach of the Year, Alpers has won MIAC Coach of the Year honors five times in his coaching career (1999, 2000, 2001, 2005 and 2006). In total, Alpers has guided the Johnnies to five MIAC titles and seven straight NCAA appearances. The Johnnies have a third-place finish (2003), a sixth-place finish (2005), two seventh-place finishes (2000 and 2001), one eighth-place finish (2002), a 13th place finish (2004) and an 18th place finish (2006) at the NCAA Division III Championships.</p>	

Saint Mary's University		
Head Coach:	Tom Farren (8th season)	
2005 Finish:	8th at MIAC Championships	
Key Returners:	<p>Jesse Polk (Jr., Hastings, Minn.)</p> <p>Scott Savage (Sr., Mahtomedi, Minn.),</p>	

Season Preview:	<p>The Cardinals enter the MIAC Championships looking to shake an eighth-place run that has covered the past two seasons. Let by senior Scott Savage and junior Jesse Polk, the Cardinals seem to be ready to make a real charge up the MIAC ladder.</p> <p>"We have the potential to make some noise (at the MIAC Championships)," said SMU coach Tom Farren. "But potential isn't going to get the job done – we've got to go out and put up the numbers we are capable of shooting. If we do that, I think we can make a real jump (in the team standings)."</p> <p>Savage has been the Cardinals' leader all season, boasting a 78.0 stroke average, including a season-low round of two-over 74 in a dual-meet win over Macalester. Polk, meanwhile, enters the conference championships with an 81.0 stroke average, with a season-best 76 vs. the Scots.</p>
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St. Olaf College		
Head Coach:	Glen Peterson (2nd season)	
2005 Finish:	9th at MIAC Championships	
Key Returners:	<p>Brian DeLaitsch (Sr., Owatonna, Minn.)</p> <p>Kjell Dybdahl (Jr., Minneapolis, Minn.)</p> <p>Mack Traynor (So., Minnetonka, Minn.)</p>	
Season Preview:	<p>The St. Olaf men's golf team, with their best foot forward, could make a move in the 2006 MIAC Golf Championships. The Oles' have a core group of players that have proven they can score well, though not as consistently as they would hope.</p> <p>Brian DeLaitsch is among that core group. DeLaitsch, finished third, just two strokes off the winning pace, in the Augsburg Invitational three weeks ago. He shot a 152 at the 2004 MIAC Championships which was good for sixth and an All-MIAC honor.</p> <p>Kjell Dybdahl, too, is a player that has had good rounds this fall. Dybdahl's 75 in the first round of the Saint John's Invite is the best of any St. Olaf player this season.</p> <p>Bobby Hunter, Tucker Weisman, Mack Traynor and Bror Herrick have each had solid rounds this season as well.</p> <p>Traynor was the Oles' best golfer in the 2005 MIAC's with a 80-80 160. St. Olaf finished ninth as a team.</p>	

University of St. Thomas		
Head Coach:	Dave Lepp (1st Season)	
2005 Finish:	Tied for 4th at MIAC Championships	
Key Returners:	<p>Jon Lundeen (Sr.)</p> <p>Justin Lorence (Sr.)</p> <p>John Treacy (Jr.)</p>	
Season Preview:	<p>Dave Lepp, now in his 24th season as a St. Thomas athletic department staffer, will serve as the Tommies' interim head golf coach in 2006-07. He replaces nine-year coach David Landry. Landry's 2004 squad had a runner-up conference finish and beat MIAC power Gustavus for the first time in a conference meet in more than 20 years. St. Thomas has placed second through fourth in eight of the last nine conference meets.</p> <p>The Toms tied for fourth in last year conference meet, and return two All-MIAC honorees in junior John Treacy and senior Jon Lundeen. Treacy had an outstanding spring season as he averaged 75.1 in nine rounds. Others challenging for lineup spots include senior Peter Vogel, who shot 75 or better in three of his first four falls rounds; senior Justin Lorence (tied for 17th at 2005 MIAC meet); junior Andrew Madsen; sophomores Ben Jensen and John Kirk; and freshman Dieter Zuehlke.</p> <p>St. Thomas took second of 10 teams in the Sept. 9-10 Augsburg Invite. The Toms led the 14-team Sept. 16-17 St. John's Invite by one stroke after one round but finished in eighth place after a poor second-day score. The Toms will need more consistent play, especially with an expanded 54-hole conference tournament.</p>	

2005 MIAC Men's Golf Championship

Oct. 1-2, 2005

Bunker Hills Golf Course, Coon Rapids

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2005 Team Results

1	Saint John's	301-295=596	(+20)
2	Gustavus	308-299=607	(+31)
3	Augsburg	311-303=614	(+38)
t4	Concordia	303-314=617	(+41)
t4	St. Thomas	307-310=617	(+41)
6	Bethel	319-324=643	(+67)
7	Macalester	328-326=654	(+78)
8	Saint Mary's	338-320=658	(+82)
9	St. Olaf	325-335=660	(+84)
10	Carleton	331-331=662	(+86)

2005 All-Conference (Top 10 All-Conf.)

1	Joe Daly SJU	73-69=142	(-2)
2	Jordan Hawkinson GAC	76-71=147	(+3)
2	Clayton Johnson GAC	74-73=147	(+3)
4	Kyle Frederickson SJU	76-73=149	(+5)
5	Andrew Longbella SJU	74-76=150	(+6)
5	John Treacy UST	74-76=150	(+6)
5	Andrew Womeldorf AUG	78-72=150	(+6)
8	Drew Dvorak CON	72-79=151	(+7)
9	Erik Helgersen AUG	74-78=152	(+8)
9	Jon Lundeen UST	74-78=152	(+8)

2005 - Championship Results
2004 - Championship Results
2003 - Championship Results
2002 - Championship Results
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