

2007 MIAC Men's Golf Championship Preview

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St. Paul, Minn. (Courtesy of Andy Johnson, Macalester College) -- The three-day battle for the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (MIAC) men's golf championship begins Saturday, Oct. 6, at Bunker Hills Golf Course in Coon Rapids. This will be the first time the men and women have contested their championships at the same venue at the same time and this is the second year of the three-day format. The winning teams are awarded automatic berths into next spring's NCAA Division III championships.



National champion Saint John's is led by '06 MIAC medalist Joe Schoolmeesters, '05 medalist Joe Daly, and Spring '07 NCAA Division III medalist Clinton Dammen, and is seeking its fourth straight conference crown. The Johnnies, however, are by no means a heavy favorite as Gustavus Adolphus comes in with a very talented team. Of the 15 players with the lowest fall averages going into last weekend's Twin Cities Classic, 12 are from either Saint John's or Gustavus.

This fall, Gustavus beat SJU in the Augsburg Invitational by 17 strokes. Saint John's beat the Gusties in the SJU Invitational and came from behind last weekend to win the Twin Cities Classic.

In addition to featuring Schoolmeesters, Daly and Dammen, the Johnnies also return all-conference golfer Matt Bohlig. Saint John's has seven players averaging between 75.5 and 77.5 this fall, with Schoolmeesters won last week's Twin Cities Classic.

The Gusties also have outstanding depth. All-MIAC players Jordan Hawkinson and Eric Harris were top-10 finishers last year and going into the Twin Cities Classic, Kyle Rohlf owns the lowest fall average at 74.3. Hawkinson was MIAC runner-up two years ago. Ajeetesh Sandhu tied for second, behind teammate Harris, at the Augsburg Invite.

St. Thomas, Concordia, St. Olaf and Augsburg look to be the top sleeper candidates.

The battle of individual honors will be wide open. Anyone who makes the five-member team for SJU or GAC should be contenders for high individual honors, as well as challengers like Drew Dvorak of Concordia (who was ninth last year and eighth in '05), John Treacy of St. Thomas (11th last year and fifth two years ago) and Carleton/St. Olaf Fall Invitational winner Alex Roman of Carleton. Dvorak was runner-up with a 149 at the Saint John's Invite and has a chance to become a rare four-time All-MIAC golfer.

Augsburg

Coach: Ted Vickerman (3rd season)

2006 Finish: Tied 2nd (+37)

Augsburg Players to Watch
Andrew Womeldorf (Sr., Northfield, Minn.)
Colby Anderson (Jr., Luverne, Minn.)
Kevin Graff (Sr., Red Wing, Minn.)
Lucas Angrimson (Fr., Lindstrom, Minn./Chisago Lakes)
Josh Henningson (Jr., Monticello, Minn.)
Billy Wiberg (Sr., Plymouth, Minn./Robbinsdale Armstrong)

Augsburg Season Preview

The Augsburg College men's golf team enters the MIAC championships with a relatively new lineup, after graduating most of its varsity lineup that earned a second-place finish in last season's league meet. Augsburg has placed in the top five in the conference meet each of the last 13 seasons.

Newcomer Lucas Angrimson (Fr., Lindstrom, Minn./Chisago Lakes HS) has had the best scores for the Auggies this season, with a 79.86 stroke average entering this past weekend's Gustavus Twin Cities Classic.

Andrew Womeldorf (Sr., Northfield, Minn.), an All-MIAC finisher in 2005, has an 81.14 stroke average so far this season. He had a second-round 75 in the competitive Wisconsin-Eau Claire Invitational Sept. 23-24. Kevin Graff (Sr., Red Wing, Minn.) has shown improvement throughout the fall season, with an 81.14 stroke average so far.

Colby Anderson (Jr., Luverne, Minn.), Billy Wiberg (Sr., Plymouth, Minn./Robbinsdale Armstrong HS) and Josh Henningson (Jr., Monticello, Minn.) have also been consistent contenders for spots on the Auggie varsity.

As a team, Augsburg has a 321.71 stroke average through its first four competitions of the season.

Bethel

Coach: Joel Johnson (1st season)

2006 Finish: 8th (+97)

Bethel Players to Watch

Reed Larson

Bjorn Hanson

Tony Weber

Bethel Season Preview

Bethel Golf is moving in the right direction this fall as they head into the latter part of the season and the MIAC championship. First year head coach

Carleton

Coach: Jerry Ericksen (1st season)

2006 Finish: 10th (+155)

Carleton Players to Watch

Hal Baseman (Jr., Chevy Chase, Md./Bethesda-Chevy Chase)

Alec Roman (So., Portland, Ore./Catlin Gabel School)

Jesse Saucedo (Sr., Murrieta, Calif./Diamond Bar)

Trent Wells (So., Rochester, Minn./Century)

Carleton Season Preview

The Knights look to build upon the success they’ve experienced already this season and move up into the middle tier of teams at this year’s conference event.

The top scoring player on head coach Jerry Ericksen’s team this fall has been Alec Roman (So./Portland, Ore./Catlin Gabel School). Three of Roman’s first four competition rounds this fall scored in the 70s, ranking him ninth among MIAC golfers in scoring average (76.8). He tied for 30th at last year’s MIAC Championships with a 24-over par 240.

Roman opened the fall portion of this year’s schedule with a 15-over par 159 to tie for 22nd place at the St. John’s Invitational. Then a week later, he fired a four-over par 148 to win the 12-team St. Olaf/Carleton Invitational. Roman was the leader after day one of the tournament as he shot a one-under par 71 at the Northfield Golf Club. It was the best recorded round of his collegiate career. He then posted the best second-round score of the tournament as well, a five-over par 77 at Willingers Golf Club. That performance earned him honors as the MIAC’s Golf Co-Athlete of the Week.

Also returning for Carleton is senior Jesse Saucedo (Murrieta, Calif./Diamond Bar). He tied for seventh in the 72-player field at the St. Olaf/Carleton Invite after shooting a 14-over par 158. That was a nine-stroke improvement over his performance the previous week. Saucedo tied for 43rd at the 2006 conference championship with a score of 253 at the three-day event

Trent Wells (So./Rochester, Minn./Century) was third on the squad at the St. Olaf/Carleton Invite as his scoring total of 169 tied for 33rd. At last year’s MIAC Championships, he finished 47th. Junior Hal Baseman (Chevy Chase, Md./Bethesda-Chevy Chase) brings added experience to the team.

Men's golf at Carleton College has one of the longest and most storied histories of any athletic program at the College. The team won 12 Midwest Conference titles before moving to the MIAC in 1983. The Knights best finish is sixth in the MIAC (1986, 2002).

Concordia

Coach: Troy Odegard (6th season)

2006 Finish: 5th (+66)

Concordia Players to Watch
Drew Dvorak (Sr., Litchfield, Minn.)
Ryan Walsh (Jr., Atwater, Minn./A-C-GC)
Zach Kappes (Fr., Moorhead, Minn.)

Concordia Season Preview

Even though the 2007 MIAC Men's Golf Championship Tournament will be contested as a team sport, all eyes will be focused on one individual from Concordia as he tries to enter an elite group of golfers in conference history. Cobber senior Drew Dvorak (Litchfield, Minn.) will be looking to become one of a handful of golfers to earn all-conference honors in each of his four years as a member of the CC golf team. There has only been one other player from Concordia that has achieved that feat and fewer than 12 players have ever won all-conference honors in four seasons.

Dvorak, who has finished sixth, eighth and tied for ninth in his first three years at the conference meet, is currently ranked second in the MIAC in stroke average in 2007. He has a 74.6 average in his first seven rounds of the year. His best outing came at the St. John's Invitational where he was the top Division III finisher in the meet – finishing runner-up for the entire tournament. For his efforts he was named the MIAC Men's Golfer of the Week – the fourth straight year he has won the award in the fall.

Not all the hopes for Cobber success at the conference meet rest on the shoulders of Dvorak. As a team, Concordia has a chance to post their highest finish at the meet since they finished in a tie for fourth place in 2005.

Behind Dvorak, Concordia has an up-and-coming freshman and a pair of seasoned veterans. -Freshman Zach Kappes (Moorhead, Minn.) has shown flashes of being able to carry the torch from Dvorak as the future No.1 golfer on the team. The power-hitting Kappes carded a team-best 75 in the second round of the Twin Cities Classic and finished fourth at the season-opening Cobber Invitational.

After Dvorak and Kappes, the team will rely on senior Sam Frick and junior Ryan Walsh to put together three consistent rounds – something that has been hard to come by in 2007. Frick has had a hot hand lately, putting together rounds of 77 and 76 together in the first two days of the Twin Cities Classic. Walsh has been plagued by a couple of bad holes in every round this year. His season-best round came in the opening day of the Bemidji State Invite when he shot a career-best 72.

Gustavus

Coach: Scott Moe (12th season)

2006 Finish: Tied 2nd (+37)

Gustavus Players to Watch

Jordan Hawkinson (Sr., Chisago Lakes, Minn.)

Eric Harris (Sr., Eden Prairie, Minn.)

Mark Stuckey (Sr., Saint Peter, Minn.)

Kyle Rohlfs (Sr., Fergus Falls, Minn.)

Gustavus Season Preview

The Gustavus men's golf team has set its sights on winning the MIAC title in 2007 after finishing second in 2006. The Gusties are off to a strong start this fall having won the Augsburg Invitational, finished second in the UW-Eau Claire Invite, and placed third in the Saint John's Invitational. Coach Scott Moe's squad will be led by returning all-conference players Jordan Hawkinson (Sr., Chisago Lakes, Minn.) and Eric Harris (Sr., Eden Prairie, Minn.). Hawkinson placed fifth and Harris ninth at last year's conference meet.

The Gusties have a good mix of youth and veteran players on this year's squad including seniors Hawkinson, Harris, Mark Stuckey (Saint Peter, Minn.), and Kyle Rohlfs (Fergus Falls, Minn.), sophomores A.J. Olson (White Bear Lake, Minn.) and Ricky Copeland (Mahtomedi, Minn.), and freshman Ajeetesh Sandhu (Ghandigarh, India). Harris claimed medalist honors at the Augsburg Invitational and Rohlfs tied for top honors at the UW-Eau Claire Invite. Rohlfs (74.3) and Sandhu (74.8) lead the team in stroke average this fall followed by Harris at 75.3, Hawkinson at 76.0, and Stuckey at 76.2. Gustavus is averaging 300.7 strokes per round through six rounds this fall.

Macalester

Coach: Martha Nause (8th season)

2006 Finish: Tied 6th (+94)

Macalester Players to Watch

Ryan Peters (So., Kohler, Wis.)

Jonathon Khil (Fr., Honolulu, Hi.)

Nick Santrach (Fr., Coon Rapids, Minn.)

Macalester Season Preview

Macalester moved up one place when it took sixth at last year’s MIAC tournament and is looking for another step up the ladder with one of the conference’s youngest teams. Ryan Peters (So., Kohler, Wis.) placed 24th at last year’s championships at Bunker Hills as a frosh and entered the Twin Cities Classic with a 79.7 average score on the fall season. Peters has posted two of the team’s best three rounds – a 76 and a 77 - and finished 21st at the St. John’s Invitational with a 158 two-round tally.

Newcomers Jonathon Khil (Fy., Honolulu, Hi. / Punahou) and Nick Santrach (Fy., Coon Rapids, Minn.) are off to promising starts in their collegiate careers. Khil – along with Peters - was Macalester’s low-scorer at the Carleton/St. Olaf Invitational with a 162, and is posting an 80.2 average to date. Santrach was the team’s top player at the Augsburg Invite with a 157 and is averaging 80.0.

Saint John's

Coach: Bob Alpers (15th season)

2006 Finish: 1st (+13)

Saint John's Players to Watch

Clinton Dammann (Glencoe, Minn./Glencoe-Sliver Lake)

Matt Bohlig (Eagan, Minn./Cretin-Derham Hall)

Joe Daly (Owatonna, Minn.)

Joe Schoolmeesters (Litchfield, Minn.)

Saint John's Season Preview

The Saint John's University golf team is looking to defend its 2007 NCAA Division III National Championship and to claim its fourth consecutive MIAC title at the 2007 MIAC Championships on Oct. 6-8 at Bunker Hills Golf Club in Coon Rapids.

The Johnnies return seniors Clinton Dammann (Glencoe, Minn./Glencoe-Sliver Lake) and Matt Bohlig (Eagan, Minn./Cretin-Derham Hall). Dammann led the Johnnies and claimed medalist honors by eight strokes with a four-day total of 287 (-1) at the NCAA Championships. Dammann was a NCAA Division III All-American First Team selection, a Callaway Golf Arnold Palmer Award recipient and a Golf Coaches Association of America (GCAA) All-District selection. Bohlig tied for 26th place (310, +22) with SJU teammate Joe Daly (Owatonna, Minn.) at the NCAA Championships. At the 2006 MIAC Championships, Bohlig tied for seventh place (225, +9) overall and was a GCAA All-District selection last season.

Other key returnees for SJU are juniors Joe Schoolmeesters (Litchfield, Minn.) and Daly. Schoolmeesters was the 2007 MIAC Player of the Year and 2006 MIAC Co-Freshman of the Year. He tied for 52nd place (315, +27) at the NCAA Championships and claimed medalist honors at both the 2006 MIAC Championships, where he shot a three-day total of 214 to win by two strokes, and the 2007 Saint John's Spring Invitational. Schoolmeesters was a GCAA All-District selection in both 2006 and 2007. Daly earned medalist honors at the 2005 MIAC Championships with a 36-hole total of 142 (-2) as a freshman to receive MIAC Co-Freshman of the Year honors.

The defending national champions need to replace Andrew Longbella, who graduated last spring. Longbella placed third (217, +1) at the 2006 MIAC championships and earned 2007 All-America honors by tying for seventh place (320, +14) at the NCAA Championships last spring. Longbella was named to the Men's Golf All-MIAC Sportsmanship Team and to ESPN The Magazine Academic All-District V College Division Men's At-Large Second Team. Longbella was also a NCAA Division III All-American First Team selection, a GCAA All-District selection and a two-time GCAA All-America Scholar Award recipient.

To start the 2007 season, the Johnnies finished second out of 17 teams at the Augsburg Invitational on September 9-10. Daly and Schoolmeesters both tied for second to lead the Johnnies with a two-day total of 148 (+5). On Sept. 15-16, the Johnnies erased a six-stroke deficit to win its annual Fall Invitational by one stroke over Wis.-Eau Claire at Blackberry Ridge G.C. in Sartell. Schoolmeesters and Dammann finished tied for fifth (152, +8) and tied for eighth (153, +9), respectively, for the Johnnies. More recently, junior Joey Polingo (Litchfield, Minn.) led SJU with a two-day total of 148 (+6) to finish tied for fifth at the Wis.-Eau Claire Invitational. Saint John's finished third overall (608, +40) out of 15 teams.

The 2007 Eaton Golf Pride National Coach of the Year, Bob Alpers is in his 15th season as head golf coach at Saint John's University in 2007 following his first NCAA Division III National Championship last spring. Alpers has guided the Johnnies to six MIAC titles and eight consecutive 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) in their other seven appearances at the NCAA Division III Championships.

Saint Mary's

Coach: Tom Farren (9th season)

2006 Finish: 9th (+103)

Saint Mary's Players to Watch

Jesse Polk (Sr., Hastings, Minn.)

Andy Roberts (Sr., Rochester, Minn.)

Rob Klein (Lake Bluff, Ill.)

Saint Mary's Season Preview

The Saint Mary's University men's golf team got its season off to a roaring start, riding a three-under-par 69 from Jesse Polk (Hastings, Minn.) to a 308-322 dual-meet victory over Macalester.

Since then, however, about the only constant from the Cardinals has been the play of Polk, who has posted four rounds of his seven rounds in the 70s and below.

"We aren't playing as consistent as I would have hoped," said SMU coach Tom Farren. "You can't compete in this conference without getting scores in the low-to-mid 70s, and while I know we are capable to posting scores like that, we haven't been able to find a way to do it in a competitive environment.

"Hopefully we've been waiting for the conference tournament to show are true colors."

St. Olaf

Coach: Glen Peterson (2nd season)

2006 Finish: Tied 6th (+94)

St. Olaf Players to Watch

Bror Herrick

Mack Traynor

Christopher Coklin

St. Olaf Season Preview

The St. Olaf men's golf team is currently ranked fifth out of 10 MIAC teams after seven rounds in their season already. In their second year under the leadership of head coach Glen Peterson, the team's average strokes is 320.

Bror Herrick tops the team with a 78.0 stroke average for the season, which has him at 16th in the conference. Herrick has consistently helped lead the team since co-medaling at the Ole's first competition at Crown Invitational (79 +8). Herrick was second overall and Mack Traynor third to lead St. Olaf to a team title at the St. Olaf/Carleton Invitational on Sunday at Willinger's Golf Club.

First year Christopher Coklin and Traynor have also been top scorers, helping to beat Augsburg in a dual meet and gain an eighth place team finish at the St. John's University Invitational.

St. Thomas

Coach: Dave Lepp (2nd season)

2006 Finish: 4th (+58)

St. Thomas Players to Watch

John Treacy (Sr.)

Ben Jensen (Jr.)

Andrew Madsen (Sr.)

St. Thomas Season Preview

St. Thomas will look to post the program's 10th top-four MIAC team finish in the last 11 years. Coach Dave Lepp has three experienced players but will need two younger players to step up. Senior Tim Fereday, the team's No. 4 player thus far, will miss the competition with a family commitment, thus two freshmen and one sophomore are competing for the final two lineup spots.

Seniors John Treacy (77.8 fall stroke average) and Andrew Madsen (78.3), and junior Ben Jensen (79.2) will lead the Tommie hopes. In six rounds over the first three tournaments, UST has the MIAC's third-best team stroke average.
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Treacy, who has a sub-77.0 collegiate average with the Tommies, made all-conference honors as a sophomore in fall 2005 as he tied for fourth in the 50-player MIAC Championships. He came back last fall as a junior and placed 11th. Treacy has shot in the 70s in 42 of his 51 collegiate rounds. He just missed receiving an invite into the NCAA Championships in 2006. In April 2006, Treacy won medalist honors out of 104 players at the Buena Vista (Iowa) Invite and made MIAC Player of the Week after taking eighth out of 96 at the Augustana (Ill.) Invite. Last summer he set the course record at St. Paul's Como Golf Course with a 61.
