

2010 MIAC Men's Golf Championship Preview

9/29/2010

ST. PAUL, Minn. – The 2010 Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Men's Golf Championship will take place this weekend with the conference team championship on the line, as well as an automatic qualification into this spring's NCAA Championships. Individual MIAC medalist honors will also be up for grabs at the three-day, 54-hole event, which will again be held Saturday, Sunday and Monday at Bunker Hills Golf Course in Coon Rapids, Minn., and will feature 10 men's and 10 women's teams.



Again this season, all eyes start on Saint John's University. The fifth-ranked Johnnies won the championship a year ago – their fifth in the last six years – and they swept the MIAC's individual awards. Defending MIAC Coach-of-the-Year **Bob Alpers** only lost one senior off that outstanding team, and 2009 MIAC Player-of-the-Year **Tony Krogen** and Freshman-of-the-Year **Mark Giorgi** – both All-Americans a year ago – return to lead the Johnnies into this weekend's championship event.

Krogen (76.0) and Giorgi (75.3) are among a group of five SJU golfers who enter the tournament averaging 76.8 strokes per round or better. **Dennis Granath** (75.5) and **Casey Vangsness** (75.7) have proved how deep and talented the Johnnies are, as each have earned MIAC Golfer-of-the-Week honors over the past two weeks, and **Alex Klehr** (76.8) has also played great golf thus far to help SJU return to Bunker Hills as one of the favorites. Krogen, Giorgi and Vangsness all earned All-MIAC honors last season.

However, the rest of the MIAC isn't ready to concede the title to the guys from Collegeville. Concordia College has the conference's best scoring average heading into this weekend's tournament. The Cobbers have averaged 298.5 strokes over their eight 18-hole rounds in 2010, and their 286 at the Jimmie Open on Sept. 1 is the lowest team score this season. St. Olaf College enters the 2010 MIAC Championship with an identical scoring average to the Johnnies. Both teams average 300.3 strokes per round, and Gustavus Adolphus College isn't far behind with a 305.0 stroke average.

There will also be a host of players gunning for individual medalist honors and Krogen's Player-of-the-Year award, led by Carleton College's **David Flynn**. In six tournament appearances, Flynn enters with the MIAC's lowest scoring average at 73.8 strokes per round.

The rest of the individual stroke leaders come from the top four team contenders. Concordia's **Tyler Champ** (73.9) couldn't be much closer to Flynn's average, and **Pat Deitz** (74.6) and **Zach Kappes** (74.9) also average less than 75 strokes per round. Champ boasts the lowest individual score of the fall – a 66 at the Jimmie Open – and Deitz is a returning All-Conference selection.

St. Olaf's **Chris Conklin** (74.0), **Billy Utter** (74.9) and **Ryan Lubinsky** (75.1) also figure to be in the mix. Conklin and Lubinsky shared MIAC Golfer-of-the-Week honors a week ago for their performance at the Division III Invitational in Florida and Utter was a member of the 2009 All-MIAC team.

A trio of Gustavus golfers are also among the conference leaders with identical 75.2 scoring averages, including Week 1 MIAC Golfer-of-the-Week **Simon Erlandsson**, 2009 All-MIAC selection **Alex Kolquist**, and **Tyler McMorrow**.

St. Thomas' **Sean Barrett** is the other returning All-MIAC Golfer. The other teams competing are Augsburg College, Bethel University, Macalester College and Saint Mary's University. In 2009, Gustavus and St. Thomas tied for second, Concordia finished fourth and St. Olaf rounded out the top five.

The 2010 MIAC Men's Golf Championships will tee off at 11:28 a.m. on both Saturday and Sunday, and Monday's final round will begin at 9 a.m. The men will play Bunker Hills' East and West courses, while the women will play the North and East courses with identical starting times. For complete information, including scoring updates, official results, course information, history and more, visit the 2010 MIAC Golf Championships Web site.

[2010 MIAC Golf Championships Web site](#)

| [2010 MIAC Schedule](#) | [2010 MIAC Statistics](#) | [MIAC Recordbook](#) | [MIAC Archives](#) |



Augsburg

Coach: Ted Vickerman (6th season)

2009 Championship Finish: 8th (54-Hole Total:
954 - +90)

Augsburg Championship Preview

The Augsburg College men's golf team enters this weekend's MIAC championships with a chance to move up from last season's eighth-place finish. Augsburg has finished in fifth place or higher in 14 of the last 16 MIAC championships.

Augsburg has a 319.1 team stroke average this fall, and has claimed its best two team performances at its last two meets, 631 scores at the St. John's and Wisconsin-Eau Claire meets. Augsburg's 305 score in its second round at the Wisconsin-Eau Claire meet is its best single round so far this fall.

Head coach Ted Vickerman has used four different five-golfer lineups in the team's four meets this fall, with two golfers competing in all four meets on the varsity lineup -- senior Joel Kociemba (SR, Andover, Minn./St. Francis HS) and sophomore Chris Tobkin (SO, Willmar, Minn./New London-Spicer HS).

Kociemba, who finished 13th at last year's conference meet, has been the team's leader throughout the season, with a 77.4 stroke average. Seven of his eight rounds have been in the 70s this season. He enters this weekend with an 80.5 career stroke average in 42 rounds. Tobkin has an 82.1 stroke average in four varsity competitions.

Zach Johnson (SO, Sartell, Minn.) and Brian Deuel (JR, Vadnais Heights, Minn./White Bear Lake HS) have each appeared in three varsity lineups this season. Johnson is currently second on the team in scoring with a 79.5 average, while Deuel has an 82.1 average this year and 81.0 career average.

Tucker Williams (JR, Roseville, Minn.) and Jason Henning (SR, Coon Rapids, Minn.) have appeared in two varsity lineups this year, with Williams carrying an 80.0 stroke average and Henning carrying an 85.3 average. Matt Kowalski (SO, Marinette, Wis.) has an 81.0 average and Alex Umland (SR, Maple Grove, Minn./Totino-Grace HS) has an 84.5 average. Both have appeared in one varsity lineup this year.



Bethel

Coach: Trent Anderson (1st season)

2009 Championship Finish: 6th (54-Hole Total:
936 - +72)

Bethel Championship Preview

The BU men have struggled to play consistent golf. They are working hard to get to a level where they will challenge for the top of the MIAC. This year they are on the bubble of that quest, with a bit more consistent play from everyone they could turn a lot of heads. Watch for Michael Yocum and Toby Robinson to challenge for the leader board.



Carleton

Coach: Jerry Ericksen (4th season)

2009 Championship Finish: 9th (54-Hole
Total: 966 - +102)

Carleton Championship Preview

The 2010 season has seen the Carleton College men's team achieve unprecedented success. Fresh off posting the squad's best 18- and 36-hole scores of the past decade at last weekend's Macalester Invitational, the Knights have a chance to earn the program's best finish ever at the MIAC Championships. Since rejoining the conference in 1983, Carleton has never finished higher than sixth and has placed ninth or tenth in eight of the past ten years.

Leading the way for the Knights this weekend will be rookie star David Flynn (Elk Grove Village, Ill./Wheaton Academy). Last weekend Flynn, who boasts a conference-leading 73.8 scoring average, finished three-over par to tie for the top spot on the leaderboard. He also led the Knights to a surprise eighth-place finish at the 21-team Saint John's Invitational, where the Knights' team score tied with national No. 15 UW-Stout.

Flynn will need help from his teammates, however, for the Knights to truly turn heads this weekend. Sophomore Brian Chesley (Mankato, Minn./West) finished second for the Knights and 17th overall at Macalester and has a strong chance to improve on his 48th-place finish at last year's championship. Turner Wadington (Jr./St. Charles, Ill./Elgin Academy) will also look to best his 29th-place finish from a year ago, while Brian Gilmore (Jr./Edina, Minn.), who finished 19th at the event in 2008, also has a chance to contribute.

Meanwhile, helping Flynn bring new life to the program have been fellow first-years Jeff Berg (Wood Dale, Ill./Wheaton Academy) and Aaron Buckley (San Diego, Calif./Francis Parker School). Both have made immediate impacts this fall, with Buckley posting the team's second-best score at Saint John's and Berg finishing third on the squad at Macalester.

The Knights currently post a 313.3 team scoring average, ranked sixth in the conference just behind the University of St. Thomas. Carleton finished five strokes ahead of the Tommies at the SJU Invitational, however, giving fans hope that this might finally be the year in which the Knights break into the top half of the MIAC standings.



Concordia

Coach: Duane Siverson (3rd season)

2009 Championship Finish: 4th (54-Hole Total: 919- +55)

Concordia Championship Preview

The 2010 Concordia-Moorhead men's golf team will have one very big question to answer when they tee off at this year's conference tournament meet. Is this the year they break the nine-year drought and post a top 3 finish at the conference meet? The last time the Cobbers finished in the top 3 was in 2001 and since then they have posted six top 5 finishes.

The Cobbers have reason to believe that this will be the season they finally break through. Concordia has played one of the toughest schedules in the MIAC this year and has all five golfers back from last year's fourth-place team. That, plus the fact that Concordia has won two of the four meets they have entered, has the Cobbers poised to make a run at the top in 2010.

Concordia opened the season by winning the Jamestown Invite. They posted a season-best score of 286 to capture the title at the beginning of September. The Cobbers then capped their regular season campaign by winning the Macalester Invite last weekend – and in the process beating conference rival St. Olaf.

The biggest news individually for Concordia came in the opening meet at Jamestown. Junior Tyler Champ (Champlin, Minn./Meadow Creek Christian HS) fired a school-record 66 at the meet to earn medalist honors. Champ currently leads the Cobbers in 2010 with a 73.9 stroke average. The other individual title of the year was won by Pat Deitz (Jr., Moorhead, Minn.) who carded a 74-71 at the Macalester Invite and tied for the low score. Deitz is second on the team in scoring this year as he is averaging 74.6 in his eight rounds.

What makes the Cobbers a top 3 contender is the fact that they have five golfers who could all be the team leader at any given meet. Besides Champ and Deitz, senior Zach Kappes (Moorhead, Minn.) could also go low and help the team into the top 3. Kappes shot a team-low 220 at the prestigious Golfweek DIII Fall Invitational in Orlando, Fla. and is third on the team in scoring average with a 74.9 mark. Rounding out the top 5 will be Andrew Whitchurch (So., Litchfield, Minn.) and Jordie Siverson (So., Moorhead, Minn.). Whitchurch earned All-MIAC honors as a freshman by placing sixth at last year's championship meet and Siverson is fourth on the team in scoring this season.

For complete Cobber men's golf info: www.cord.edu/dept/sports/fall/mg/index.php



Gustavus

Coach: Scott Moe (15th season)

2008 Championship Finish: Tied 2nd (54-Hole Total: 901- +37)

Gustavus Championship Preview

Following second place finishes in 2008 and 2009, the Gustavus men's golf team is poised to challenge Saint John's for the conference title at the 2010 MIAC Championship held Oct. 2-4 at Bunker Hills Golf Course in Coon Rapids, Minn. Head Coach Scott Moe, in his 15th season at the helm of the Gustavus men's golf team, will look to top returner and sophomore captain Alex Kolquist (Hermantown, Minn.) to lead the young, but talented Gustavus team.

Alex Kolquist, and newcomers Simon Erlandsson (Mjølby, Sweden) and Tyler McMorrow (St. Cloud, Minn.) enter the conference tournament with the top average on the team at 75.2 strokes per round. Kolquist has finished in the top-10 in two tournaments this fall, taking third (150) in the Augsburg Invitational and seventh in the Frank Wrigglesworth Bugold Invite. Erlandsson had a breakout weekend in his collegiate debut, winning the Augsburg Invite with a 70-72-142, while McMorrow has also cracked the top-ten twice this season, taking second (147) at the Augsburg Invite and finishing seventh (150) at the Saint John's Fall Invite. Andrew Oakes (Hermantown, Minn.) will fill the fourth spot in the lineup, entering with an average of 80.2 strokes per round.

Battling for the fifth spot will be sophomore Trevor Gervais (Fergus Falls, Minn.), Alex Pederson (Kiestert, Minn.), and Matt Jensen (Edina, Minn.). Pederson recently placed second (145) at the Frank Wrigglesworth Bugold Invite and currently has a 77.5 average per round. Falling next in line are Gervais (78.0 avg./per round) and Jensen (78.7 avg./per round).

Gustavus shot a 297 in round one, 304 in round two, and a 300 in round three for a total 901 at the 2009 MIAC Championship. "For us to compete and make a run at the championship, we need to turn in four good scores each day. In this conference, it is going to take three solid days of good golf to win it," says Head Coach Scott Moe.

The Gusties won the Augsburg Invite shooting a 611 (+35), placed second at the Frank Wrigglesworth Bugold Invite with a 608 (+35), and finished fifth at the Saint John's Invite after firing a 608 (+32). Gustavus is shooting a 305 (+17) average per round this season, with a low round of 293 at the Saint John's Invite.

Macalester



Coach: Martha Nause (11th season)

2009 Championship Finish: 7th (54-Hole Total: 945- +81)

Macalester Championship Preview

Macalester brings a veteran and balanced squad into this year's MIAC Championships and is looking to improve on last year's seventh-place conference finish. The Scots are averaging a 321 team tally per round and have four players – all seniors and juniors – averaging between 80.0 and 81.5 a round through five competitions this fall. Four different players have led the team in the five events.

Matt Butler (Jr., Southlake, Tex. / Carroll) leads Macalester with an 80.0 average through three tournaments and a couple duals this fall. Butler topped the team with a 19th-place 162 at the Saint John's Fall Invitational and has been Mac's most consistent player. Nick Santrach (Sr., Coon Rapids, Minn.) owns an 80.4 average after finishing sixth with a 148 last weekend at the Macalester Invitational, shooting a season-best 74 on both rounds. Santrach got off to a strong beginning at last year's MIAC tourney by carding rounds of 74 and 75 on the first two days before falling a bit on the final round to place 19th overall. He was also the team's top player as a sophomore with a 19th-place finish on his hometown course.

Right behind Butler and Santrach are Ben Langworthy (Sr., Tucson, Ariz. / Tucson Magnet School) with an 80.8 average and Dan Allen (Jr., Orland Park, Ill. / Carl Sandberg) with an 81.5.

Saint John's



Coach: Bob Alpers (18th season)

2009 Championship Finish: 1st (54-Hole Total: 880- +16)

Saint John's Championship Preview

After graduating only one senior from last season, Saint John's looks to have high expectations for the 2010 MIAC Championship.

Last fall, Saint John's won its fifth MIAC championship in the last six years with a three-day total of 880 (+16). At the national level, the Johnnies finished fourth in the Division III Championship, making it their ninth top-eight finish at nationals in the last 11 years.

SJU, which is currently ranked fifth nationally, returns a pair of All-Americans in sophomore Mark Giorgi (Red Wing, Minn.) and junior Tony Krogen (Marshall, Minn.). The 2010 MIAC Player of the Year as a sophomore, Krogen earned medalist honors at the 2009 MIAC Championship, setting a tournament record with a three-under par total of 213 during the 54-hole event. In total, he posted a 73.7 stroke average in 22 rounds of play. Giorgi, meanwhile, was truly at the top of his class, winning the 2010 MIAC, Golf Coaches' Association of America (GCAA) Central Region and GCAA Division III National Freshman of the Year awards. He scored a three-under par 69 with six birdies during the fourth round of the NCAA Championship to tie for 13th overall. Giorgi posted a 74.4 stroke average in 22 rounds of play and missed the Top 10 in just two of the 10 events last season. With the addition of Giorgi and Krogen, SJU now has had 21 All-America selections in the last 11 seasons.

The Johnnies also return sophomore Dennis Granath (Bandhagen, Sweden/Farsta Gymnasium). Last season, Granath tied with Giorgi for third on the team with a 74.4 stroke average in 17 rounds of play. He also earned MIAC Golfer of the Week honors twice as a freshman last season.

With a successful season underway, the Johnnies have placed in the top three in all four of their events this season, including first-place finishes in each of their last two events (Saint John's Fall Invitational, Wis.-Eau Claire Invitational). At the SJU Fall Invite, freshman Casey Vangsness (Alexandria, Minn.) helped clinch the win, shooting an even-par 144 to earn medalist honors. At Eau Claire, Saint John's obliterated its two-stroke deficit by firing a one-over par 289 to win the tournament by 17 strokes. Granath tallied a two-under par 70 during the final round to earn medalist honors with a two-day total of 143 (-1).

Bob Alpers is in his 18th season as head coach of the Johnnies. He has guided the Johnnies to eight MIAC titles and 11 consecutive NCAA appearances, including back-to-back national championships in 2007 and 2008. The 2007 Eaton Golf Pride National Coach of the Year, Alpers earned the MIAC Coach of the Year award for the eighth time and the GCAA Central Region Coach of the Year for the fourth time in 2010.



Saint Mary's

Coach: Jeff Stangl (3rd season)

2008 Championship Finish: 10th (54-Hole

Total: 985- +121)

Saint Mary's Championship Preview

It's been a season of adjustment for the Saint Mary's University men's golf coach Jeff Stangl, who entered the 2010 season without his top three golfers from a year ago.

"We lost some strong and consistent scorers (to graduation)," said Stangl. "But we also have a solid returning core who are determined to make an impact this year."

Among those leading the way for the Cardinals this season are junior D.J. Borgen (Red Wing, Minn.) and sophomore Ethan Austin (Northbrook, Ill.). The Cardinals have also received solid contributions from sophomore Will Johnson (Minneapolis, Minn.), senior Matt Feriancek (River Falls, Wis.) and freshman Tim Wolford (Maple Grove, Minn.).

"Our scores have been dropping all season, and, hopefully we are peaking at just the right time," said Stangl. "We have some players with a lot of potential, and (the conference championships) would be a perfect time for that potential to be realized."



St. Olaf

Coach: Glen Peterson (5th season)

2009 Championship Finish: 5th (54-Hole Total:
923- +59)

St. Olaf Championship Preview

The St. Olaf men's golf team, ranked 26th in the latest GolfStat rankings, is riding momentum into the MIAC Championships. The Oles have six players with scoring averages under 79, including Chris Conklin (74.0), Billy Utter (74.9) and Ryan Lubinsky (75.1). Conklin and Lubinsky shared the MIAC's golfer of the week honors earlier this fall after they each finished ninth at the Golfweek Division III Invitational. St. Olaf finished sixth in the event, which featured six schools from last year's NCAA's. St. Olaf followed the Golfweek Invite with a second place finish at the Macalester Invitational last week.

The Oles' varsity scoring average sits at 300.3 through the team's first three events this fall and is at 295.4 in the last two events.



St. Thomas

Coach: Scott Proshek (1st season)

2009 Championship Finish: Tied 2nd (54-Hole

Total: 901- +37)

St. Thomas Championship Preview

St. Thomas tied for second in the 2009 MIAC Championships, and the 2010 Tommies will look to challenge for another top-three finish.

St. Thomas returns six of its top seven players led by All-MIAC honoree Sean Barrett, a senior (76.5 average in 2009-2010), and senior Grant Shafranski (76.3 average). The six returners combined for a 77.6 stroke average in 20 rounds in 2009-2010.

The 2009 Tommies tied for second place in the MIAC and played eight of their 20 fall and spring rounds under 300. In the conference meet, Barrett placed second in a field of 50 players with three rounds of 73s. Shafranski tied for 13th and John Young tied for 19th.

Barrett had six rounds of 73 or better with a best of 69 last spring at St. John's.

Other top returners include Mike Mortenson, Brandon Engebos and Brian Parkhurst.

This fall, UST has a 312 stroke average through eight rounds. Leading the team have been Mortenson (76.6 average), Barrett (77.0), Shafranski (77.3) and Engebos (78.8). Freshman Scott Hird has a pair of 74 scores this fall and a 79.2 average and also could crack the lineup.