

1997-98 MIAC Men's Hockey Athletes of the Week

12/8/97 - Bryan Howard, Concordia (Fr., Goalie, Gold River, Calif./Brooks HS) -- Howard, a freshman, made 52 saves and allowed three goals in a weekend sweep of Gustavus, marking the first victories by the Cobbers over the Golden Gusties since the 1993-94 season. Howard blanked Gustavus with 20 saves on Dec. 5 for his first collegiate shutout, then made 32 saves against Gustavus on Dec. 6.

12/15/97 - Ryan Hartung, St. Thomas (Jr., Defense, Apple Valley, Minn./Rosemount HS) --Hartung scored three goals and had one assist for a four-point night in St. Thomas' 8-6 nonconference win over Wisconsin-Superior on Dec. 9. Hartung, an All-MIAC performer last season, has helped UST to a 7-2 start. UW-Superior was 6-2-1 coming into the contest with the Tommies.

1/6/98 - Todd Cary, Augsburg (Sr., Wing, Indianapolis, Ind./Indianapolis Lutheran HS) -- Cary had a hat trick plus an assist for a four-point evening in Augsburg's 4-3 victory over St. John's on Jan. 3 at the National Hockey Center in St. Cloud. Cary scored Augsburg's final three goals, tying the game twice and giving the Auggies the final advantage with 31 seconds to play in the game. Cary now has a team-high six goals, six assists for 12 points, tied for the team lead in total points.

1/12/98 - Brian Bolf, St. Thomas (So., Forward, Hibbing, Minn.) -- Bolf scored a three-goal hat trick in a Jan. 10 3-2 win over Bethel that completed a weekend sweep. Bolf also had an assist in a Jan. 9, 8-2 win. Bolf broke a 2-2 tie with the game-winning goal with 11:27 to play in the third period of the Jan. 10 game. The wins let UST climb to 4-2 in the MIAC and 10-4 overall and stay in the thick of the MIAC title race. On the season, Bolf has eight goals and 12 assists in 14 games.

1/19/98 - Brandon Steege, Augsburg (Sr., Forward, Minneapolis, Minn./Richfield HS) -- Steege scored a three-goal hat trick, including the game-winner 2:54 into overtime, as visiting Augsburg toppled NCHA opponent Wisconsin-Stevens Point 4-3 in overtime on Jan. 17. Stevens Point entered the game as the No. 3-rated team in the NCAA Division III West Region, while Augsburg was No. 8. Steege, who played three years at the University of Minnesota before transferring to Augsburg this season, has team highs of nine goals and 18 points this season.

1/26/98 - Mark Rice, St. John's (Jr., Goalie, St. Louis Park, Minn.) -- Rice stopped 63 of 65 shots he faced over the weekend as the Johnnies completed a weekend sweep of St. Mary's in Winona. In the 4-0 win on Jan. 23, Rice stopped all 33 shots he faced as he recorded his second consecutive shutout and third of the season. In the 4-2 win on Jan. 24, Rice stopped 30 of 32 shots for the Johnnies. Rice is currently 11-4 on the season and 35-9-2 in his three-year career at SJU. SJU is currently 10-2 in the MIAC and 13-4 overall.

2/2/98 - Tavis Gillard, St. Thomas (So., Goalie, Rosemount, Minn.) -- Gillard, the Tommies' backup goalie, came on four minutes into the first game of a weekend series at Concordia-Moorhead on Jan. 30 to replace injured starter Chad Villagomez and stopped all 32 shots, including a penalty shot, in St. Thomas' 6-0 win. He played all three periods and overtime and stopped 24 of 26 shots in a 2-2 tie Jan. 31 against the Cobbers. UST had a goal disallowed in overtime that would have given Gillard a 2-0 record on the weekend. On the weekend, he stopped 56 of 58 shots. On the season, Gillard is 5-1-1 overall with just 12 goals allowed in 369 minutes (1.95 goals-against average) and has stopped 136 of 148 shots (.919 save percentage). UST is 15-5-1 overall and 8-3-1 in the MIAC and is trying to make it 13-of-13 in MIAC hockey playoff appearances.

2/9/98 - Ryan McIntosh, Augsburg (Fr., Goalie, Calgary, Alberta/Bishop Grandin HS) -- McIntosh recorded the first shutout of his college career and picked up two victories in goal as Augsburg swept St. Mary's 6-5 in overtime on Feb. 6 and 2-0 on Feb. 7, moving the Auggies into a tie for second place with St. Thomas in the MIAC. McIntosh made 20 saves on 25 shots in the overtime victory at St. Mary's, then stopped 30 shots in the shutout victory at Augsburg. The Feb. 7 win was Augsburg's first shutout since a 7-0 win over Marian College on Feb. 8, 1997 and the first shutout in MIAC play since a 10-0 win over Bethel on Feb. 4, 1994. McIntosh is now 6-1-3 on the season and 5-1-1 in conference play

2/16/98 - Steve Aronson, St. Thomas (So., Forward, Minnetonka, Minn.) -- Aaronson scored two hat tricks and totalled seven points on the weekend in St. Thomas' crucial sweep of St. John's (9-1, 9-8). Aronson scored the game-winning goal with 16 seconds to play in the 9-8 win in St. Cloud on Feb. 14, his third goal of the day. On Feb. 13, he scored three goals and one assist on home ice. On the season Aronson has 24 goals and 19 assists in 22 games. In games he's played since New Year's, UST is 10-2. The Toms are 10-3-1 in the MIAC and 17-5-1 overall and can clinch at least a share of the 1997-98 MIAC championship with a sweep of St. Olaf this weekend. In his two-year career, Aronson has 79 points (35g, 44a).

2/22/98 - Matt Erredge, St. John's (Jr., Forward, Austin, Minn.) -- Erredge had eight points in a nonconference weekend sweep of Minnesota-Crookston. In an 8-3 win Feb. 19, Erredge scored one goal and had three assists. In an 11-0 win on Feb. 20, Erredge picked up his second hat trick of the season and had one assist. SJU is currently 12-4-0 in the MIAC and 17-8-0 overall. Erredge has 31 goals and 26 assists in 23 games played this season. Erredge is three goals away from breaking the SJU single-season goal record of 33 and four points away from breaking the SJU single-season points record of 60. In his three-year career, Erredge has scored 62 goals and 63 assists in 84 career games, which makes him the sixth-leading scorer in SJU hockey history. SJU will compete in the MIAC playoff semifinals this weekend for the third consecutive season and fourth time in five seasons under head coach John Harrington.