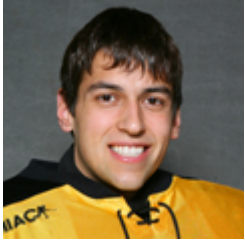


## John McLean, Gustavus

Eagan, Minn. / Minnehaha Academy  
Week of: 2012-03-05



The Gustavus men's hockey team captured the 2012 MIAC Playoff championship Saturday with a 4-2 win over St. Olaf. In the title game, the Gusties got a big performance out of their freshman goaltender, **John McLean** (Eagan, Minn./Minnehaha Academy), who set a new career high for saves while facing an onslaught from the Oles as they tried to rally back from an early deficit. For his performance, McLean has been named the final MIAC Men's Hockey Athlete-of-the-Week of the 2011-12 season, his second such honor of the season.

McLean stopped 39 of the 41 he faced in the title game - including 31 saves over the final two periods - to help Gustavus claim the postseason title. The Gusties jumped out to a 3-0 lead in the first period, then held on for the 4-2 victory. McLean made several big saves in the game's most crucial moments, especially as his team killed off a two-minute minor and a five-minute major late in the game. In his terrific freshman season, McLean is ranked third in the MIAC in goals against average (2.13), save percentage (.924) and winning percentage (14-4-2, .750).

The win helped Gustavus - the No. 2 seed in the MIAC Playoffs - improve to 16-6-5 overall in 2011-12, and it also gave the Gusties the MIAC's automatic bid to the NCAA Division III Men's Hockey Tournament. McLean and Gustavus open national tournament play Wednesday at home when it hosts Milwaukee School of Engineering (22-6-1) at Don Roberts Ice Rink with the puck set to drop at 7 p.m.

## Steve Papciak, St. Olaf

Des Plaines, Ill. / Elk Grove  
Week of: 2012-02-27



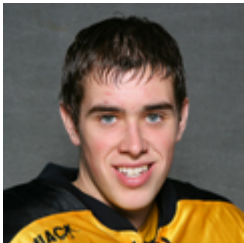
In the first period of the 2012 MIAC Men's Hockey Playoffs, No. 4-seeded St. Olaf found itself trailing No. 5 Hamline by two goals. The Oles made a switch in goal, calling on freshman goalie **Steve Papciak** (Des Plaines, Ill./Elk Grove) and have been the postseason's biggest story ever since. St. Olaf came back for a 3-2 win over the Pipers, then scored 4-3 road upset of No. 1-seeded St. Thomas to earn a spot in the title game, thanks largely to Papciak's emergence in front of the net in the tournament. For his performance, Papciak has been named the MIAC Men's Hockey Player-of-the-Week.

Papciak was spectacular in Thursday's home win in the first round against defending MIAC Playoff champ Hamline after entering to start the second period. The freshman made 25 total saves with zero goals allowed, including 14 stops in the second period, as St. Olaf scored the game's final three goals to rally for the win. He followed that up by making 32 saves - at least 10 in each period - with three goals allowed in the huge upset win of the regular-season champion Tommies. Two of the three goals Papciak allowed came on UST power plays and, most importantly, he shut St. Thomas out in the third as his team scored twice to take the lead and eventually win the semifinal game.

The performance of Papciak and his teammates have the fourth-seeded Oles in the championship game, which will be host Saturday by second-seeded Gustavus at 7:05 p.m. in St. Peter. The rookie goaltender and his teammates hope to continue their remarkable run as the playoffs prepare for a thrilling conclusion to a great tournament. St. Olaf and the Gusties just met in the final weekend of the regular season, with both games going to overtime, so the stage is set for another classic in Saturday's title game.

## Adam Smyth, Gustavus

Burnsville, Minn. / Burnsville  
Week of: 2012-02-20



The Gustavus men's hockey team displayed its resilience over the weekend, coming back in both games to earn a win and a tie against St. Olaf and secure the No. 2 seed in the MIAC Men's Hockey Playoffs in the process. The scoring touch of **Adam Smyth** (Burnsville, Minn.) made a huge difference and sparked both Gustie comebacks, as the sophomore forward netted three goals over the weekend to help his team lock up home ice in its first postseason game. For his performance, Smyth has been named the MIAC Men's Hockey Athlete-of-the-Week for the second time this season.

Smyth scored two of his three goals Friday night, as Gustavus came back from a 2-0 deficit to earn a 3-2 overtime win. Down a pair of goals in the second period, Smyth scored late in the second period and again midway through the third to force overtime in a game the Gusties would go on to win. The next night, St. Olaf held a 3-0 lead midway through the third period, but Smyth scored with 9:30 left to spark his team, which managed three goals in a seven-minute span to manage an overtime tie. This season, Smyth's 13 goals rank fourth in the MIAC, and the sophomore has scored five goals in Gustavus' last five games.

The three points in the standings helped Gustavus clinch the No. 2 seed in the MIAC playoffs. The Gusties finished the regular season 14-6-5 overall and 8-5-3 in the MIAC with 19 points, just one point ahead of No. 3 Saint John's and two ahead of No. 4 St. Olaf. Gustavus will host the Johnnies in one of two semifinal games Saturday night, with the puck set to drop in St. Peter at 7:30 p.m.

## Beau Christian, Hamline

Moorhead, Minn. / Moorhead  
Week of: 2012-02-13



Hamline goalie **Beau Christian** (Moorhead, Minn.) has come up big for the Pipers throughout his career, so it was fitting he was the team's biggest star in his final weekend of regular season action. The senior stopped 68 of the 70 shots he faced against Concordia over the weekend, leading Hamline to a split while recording his 50th career win and eighth career shutout in the process. For his performance in the net, Christian has been named the MIAC Men's Hockey Athlete-of-the-Week.

Friday's 1-0 win featured one of Christian's finest performances of the season. The Hamline netminder stopped all 34 Cobbers shots while making his team's one-goal lead stand up in a crucial win for the Pipers' playoff hopes. He was sensational again Saturday, making 34 saves on 36 chances, but he saw his current scoreless streak stop at 183:53 as Hamline suffered a 2-1 loss. This season, Christian has been in the net for all 10 Piper wins, recording a .914 save percentage and a 2.83 goals against average.

Hamline's bye week coincided with the final week of the regular season, so Christian and his teammates will have to do some scoreboard watching this weekend with their postseason fate on the line. The Pipers finished the regular season 10-13-2 overall, 7-8-1 in MIAC play and fifth in the conference standings with 15 points. With both Concordia (13 points) and Bethel (12) both active this weekend, the Pipers will find out Saturday if they'll hang onto the fifth and final MIAC Men's Hockey Playoff spot, or if the Cobbers or Royals will leapfrog them into the field.

## Peter Rohn, St. Olaf

Vettrre, Norway / Michigan Tech  
Week of: 2012-02-06



The St. Olaf men's hockey team picked up a big sweep of conference foe Augsburg and four important points over the weekend to remain in the thick of the race for a spot in the MIAC Playoffs thanks to some big contributions from senior **Peter Rohn** (Vettrre, Norway/Michigan Tech). The forward had a six-point weekend with three goals and three assists, including the game-winner on Friday and a he had a hand in the Oles' first three goals of Saturday's win as well. For his performance, Rohn has been named the MIAC Men's Hockey Athlete-of-the-Week.

Rohn's big weekend started Friday in a matter of seconds. With St. Olaf leading 2-1, Rohn broke the game open with a flurry of action, scoring twice in a 29-second span to push the Oles lead to 4-1. It turned out that scoring surge was necessary, as his second goal ended up being the game-winner in a 5-3 decision for the Oles. Rohn also had an assist in the win. He followed that up by scoring St. Olaf's first goal in Saturday's 4-3 win and assisting on the next two to help secure the sweep. This season, Rohn is tied for fifth in the MIAC in points (22), tied for seventh in assists (13) and tied for eighth in goals (nine). His nine power-play points are also tied for eighth-most in the league.

The Oles used the two wins and four points to inch closer to clinching a spot in the MIAC Playoffs. They are now 10-6-5 overall, 6-4-2 in the MIAC and tied for second in the conference with 14 points. St. Olaf faces another huge weekend when they'll take on Saint John's - the team they're tied with in second place - in a home-and-home series this weekend. Friday the Oles will host the Johnnies in Northfield at 7:30 p.m. The series shifts to St. Cloud Saturday for a 7 p.m. start at the National Hockey Center.

## Trevor Doden, Augsburg

Red Wing, Minn. / North Iowa Outlaws - NAHL

Week of: 2012-01-30



The Augsburg men's hockey team scored a MIAC sweep of Saint Mary's over the weekend behind the goal-scoring prowess of senior **Trevor Doden** (Red Wing, Minn.). Over the two games, Doden scored four of the Auggies' eight goals, including his first collegiate hat-trick in a clutch performance where he brought his team back from a two-goal deficit and scored the game-winner in overtime. For his clutch performance, Doden has been named the MIAC Men's Hockey Athlete-of-the-Week.

The big weekend started Friday for Doden and the Auggies as he scored his team's second goal in a 3-2 win over the Cardinals in Winona. For an encore, Doden turned in one of the more memorable individual efforts of the 2011-12 season in Saturday's 5-4 overtime win on Augsburg's home ice Saturday. SMU held a 3-1 lead in the second period, but Doden scored the Auggies final three goals - including the unassisted game-winner in overtime - to help his team win the game and secure the sweep. Doden's big weekend pushed his goal total to 13 this season, which is tied for the most in the MIAC in overall games. His average of 0.68 goals per game ranks 18th among all Division III players.

The two wins helped Augsburg improve to 8-10-1 overall and 4-5-1 in the MIAC. The Auggies are currently in ninth place with nine points in the conference standings, but they trail a trio of teams tied for fifth by a single point and three more teams tied for second by just two points. This weekend, Doden will look to continue his hot scoring streak with a home-and-home series against MIAC opponent St. Olaf. Friday's game will be at the Auggies' arena in Minneapolis at 7:05 p.m. Saturday the series will shift to Northfield for a 7:30 p.m. start.

## J.D. Wells, Saint John's

Anoka, Minn. / Anoka

Week of: 2012-01-23



The Saint John's men's hockey team made considerable progress - both on the ice and in the standings - over the weekend with a huge MIAC sweep of second-place Concordia. Leading the way in both wins was junior **J.D. Wells** (Anoka, Minn.). Wells was a wall in front of the net, allowing just one goal in each game and recording 43 saves with a .956 save percentage to help the Johnnies secure the sweep. For his performance, Wells has been named the MIAC Men's Hockey Athlete-of-the-Week.

Wells and SJU started their big weekend with a 2-1 win Saturday in St. Cloud. The junior netminder allowed just one power-play goal in the third period while stopping 20 Cobber shots to help the Johnnies score the one-goal win. He nearly followed up that performance with a shutout in a 4-1 win in Sunday's rematch. Though Concordia scored with less than two minutes left to end Wells' shutout bid, he stopped 23 of the 24 shots he faced to secure the sweep. The play of their goalie helped the Johnnies stop nine of the Cobbers' 10 power play chances

over the two games and SJU now has a three-game winning streak. In three conference starts this season, Wells is 3-0 with a 1.67 goals against average and a .929 save percentage.

The sweep helped Saint John's improve to 6-9-2 overall and pull to even in MIAC play at 4-4 with eight points. The Johnnies currently sit in a tie for sixth place, and they'll have a chance this weekend to jump as high as second if they can keep their winning ways alive. This week, SJU faces a Thursday-Friday series against defending conference champion Hamline, with the Johnnies hosting Thursday's game in St. Cloud at 7 p.m. and the Friday game moving to the Pipers' home ice in Vadnais Heights for another 7 p.m. puck drop.

## **Robby Philipp, St. Thomas**

Thief River Falls, Minn. / Fargo-Moorhead Jets (NAHL)

Week of: 2012-01-16



The St. Thomas men's hockey team won a pair of extremely close games last week to sweep defending MIAC champion Hamline and remain alone in first place in the conference standings. In the two wins, the difference was UST forward **Robby Philipp** (Thief River Falls, Minn./Fargo-Moorhead Jets). The senior had five points - three goals and two assists - including the game-winning overtime goal Friday and the game-winning assist Saturday in the final minute of regulation. For his performance, Philipp has been named the MIAC Men's Hockey Athlete-of-the-Week.

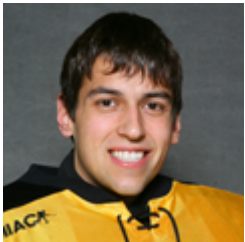
Friday, Philipp came up big for the Tommies in a 2-1 overtime win over the Pipers. he scored both of St. Thomas' goals in the game, including the game-winner just 50 seconds into the overtime period to give his team the win. For an encore, Philipp racked up a goal and two assists in Saturday's rematch. With the score tied at 4-4 and less than 30 seconds on the clock, Philipp notched his second assist of the game, setting up teammate Chris Cass for the game-winning goal to secure the sweep. Philipp has been one of the MIAC's top offensive players all season. He's currently tied for first in points (18), power-play goals (five) and game-winning goals (three). In addition, he's tied for second with seven power-play points, tied for third with nine goals and tied for 10th with nine assists.

The sweep helped St. Thomas take another step towards the MIAC championship. The two wins improved the team to 11-3-2 overall and 6-1-1 in conference play, and its 13 points have the Tommies atop the league standings halfway through the MIAC schedule. Monday, UST moved up to No. 12 in the USCHO.com Division III men's hockey Top 15 poll. This weekend, the Tommies will try to continue their terrific season in a two-game MIAC series against Saint Mary's. The Cardinals will host UST Friday at 7:30 p.m. in Winona, and the rematch will be Saturday at the St. Thomas Academy ice arena in Mendota Heights at 7 p.m.

## **John McLean, Gustavus**

Eagan, Minn. / Minnehaha Academy

Week of: 2012-01-09



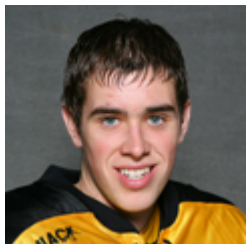
It's been a very happy Holiday season for the Gustavus men's hockey team and freshman goalie **John McLean** (Eagan, Minn./Minnehaha Academy). The Gusties have won three straight nonconference games against tough competition in late December and early January with McLean continuing his standout rookie season in the net. In the three wins, he made 89 saves with just four goals allowed with a tremendous .957 save percentage. For his performance, McLean has been named the first MIAC Men's Hockey Athlete-of-the-Week of the 2012 calendar year.

McLean's Holiday season started with a 31-save performance in a 2-1 win over No. 4 UW-River Falls back on Dec. 14 with just the one goal allowed. After a hiatus, the Gustie first-year showed little signs of rust last weekend with two terrific performances. He came up with 28 saves and allowed just two power play goals Friday in a 3-2 win over St. Scholastica, which is receiving votes in Monday's USCHO.com poll. For an encore Saturday, McLean made 30 saves - including 20 in the third period - while allowing just one goal in a 2-1 win over then-No. 14-ranked UW-Superior. He blanked the Yellow Jackets' power play (0-for-4) in the upset win, and has now won seven straight games in goal. McLean currently ranks first in the MIAC and 10th nationally in goals against average (1.90) and he's second in the MIAC and eighth nationally with a .935 save percentage while compiling an 8-3 record in the net this season.

The three impressive wins helped the Gusties jump into this week's USCHO.com poll at No. 15. They are one of two MIAC teams in the rankings, just a spot back from No. 14 St. Thomas. Gustavus improved to 9-4-2 overall this season, and it is 3-3 in MIAC play with six points. The Gusties hope their hot streak continues as they head back into conference play this weekend. Gustavus will face Saint John's for a MIAC home-and-home series, with Friday's game set for 7 p.m. in St. Cloud and Saturday's scheduled for 7:05 p.m. in St. Peter on the Gusties' home ice.

## Adam Smyth, Gustavus

Burnsville, Minn. / Burnsville  
Week of: 2011-12-12



The Gustavus men's hockey team used a pair of nonconference wins over the weekend to pull above .500 overall, which was just the second-biggest story for the Gusties behind the breakout game of sophomore **Adam Smyth** (Burnsville, Minn.). The forward had the first four-goal game for a Gustavus player in more than two years in Saturday's win over Lawrence, including a flurry of second-period goals and the win-sealing empty-netter in the third. As a result, Smyth has been named the MIAC Men's Hockey Athlete-of-the-Week.

Smyth contributed to Friday's 5-3 win over Concordia-Wisconsin with a plus-1 rating and no points before breaking out in a big way a day later. He was the difference in Gustavus' 5-3 win over Lawrence on Saturday with his four goals. He completed a hat trick during a three-minute span in the second period when he turned a 1-1 tie into a 4-1 Gustie lead with goals at 12:46, 13:45 and 15:47. The first and third were on power plays, and his final goal capped off the win and gave him the first four-goal performance by a Gustavus player since Nov. 20, 2009 (David Martinson). Smyth's big weekend helped him jump into the Top 10 in the MIAC in goals scored, as he's now tied for 10th with five goals. He also has two assists for a total of seven points this season.

The two nonconference victories helped the Gusties improve to 6-4-2 overall, while they remain 3-3 in the MIAC and tied for fourth place with six points. They'll face one more tough nonconference test - at UW-River Falls on Wednesday at 7 p.m. - before taking more than three weeks off for finals and the Holiday break. Gustavus will be back on the ice Jan. 6 and 7 when it hosts St. Scholastica and UW-Superior, with conference play resuming the following weekend.

## Jake Kogler, Bethel

Forest Lake, Minn. / Forest lake  
Week of: 2011-12-05



Heading into the weekend, Bethel had just one conference and two overall wins with the defending MIAC champions up next on the schedule. However, the Royals pulled off an exciting sweep of Hamline over the weekend, led by senior **Jake Kogler's** (Forest Lake, Minn.) high-scoring exhibition. Kogler scored four goals in the two games - two in each win - to help Bethel score its big sweep and improve to .500 in conference play. For his performance, Kogler has been named the MIAC Men's Hockey Athlete-of-the-Week.

Kogler didn't waste any time getting on track, as he scored just 15 seconds into Friday's opening game. He added another goal in the second period as Bethel went on to hand the defending MIAC regular season and playoff champion Pipers a 5-2 loss. Kogler was again the difference in Saturday's 4-3 win with two more goals, including the one that gave Hamline a 3-2 lead in the third period. This season, Kogler has been among the MIAC's best offensive players with a league-leading total of eight goals. He also has three assists for a total of 11 points, which is tied for the fourth-most in the MIAC.

The two wins helped the Royals improve to 4-9 overall and, most importantly, 3-3 in the MIAC. Bethel now has six points in the conference standings and is in a tie for fourth place, firmly in the playoff hunt. Kogler and his crew will hit the ice again Saturday when they host 11th-ranked Milwaukee School of Engineering at the Schwan's Super Rink in Blaine, Minn., at 4 p.m. That will be Bethel's final game of 2011 before they return to nonconference play on Jan. 6. MIAC games will resume on Jan. 13 and 14 following a break for the holidays.

## Jascha Pettit, Saint John's

Wadena, Minn. / Minnesota (MNJHL)

Week of: 2011-11-28



Saint John's junior **Jascha Pettit** (Wadena, Minn.) has gotten off to a great start this season, and his success continued in a big way over the weekend as the Johnnies scored a win and tie to take a nonconference series from Concordia-Wisconsin. Pettit led the way with four points, including the game-winning goal in Friday's win and the game-tying assist in Sunday's tie. For his performance, the forward was named the MIAC Men's Hockey Athlete-of-the-Week.

Friday, Pettit had one of his best games of the season, tallying two goals and one assist in the 5-2 SJU win, including the game winner. He also assisted on the Johnnies first goal Sunday to tie the score 1-1 in the eventual 2-2 overtime tie. Pettit has had great scoring stats all year as he is tied for Saint John's team lead with five goals, and ranks second with eight points. Those same totals have him tied for third in the MIAC in goals scored, and tied for sixth in points.

The 1-0-1 performance over the weekend helped Saint John's inch closer to .500 overall with a 3-4-2 record thus far in 2011-12. The Johnnies have a 1-3-0 record in conference play and two points, and they currently locked in a four-way tie for fifth in the MIAC standings. SJU will take a break before its next game, which is Dec. 9 on its home ice in St. Cloud against Milwaukee School of Engineering. The Johnnies also face St. Thomas in a nonconference game on Dec. 10 in Waconia, Minn., to close out the 2011 portion of their schedule.

### **Chris Neamonitis, Concordia**

Montreal, Que. / Estevan Bruins (SJHL)

Week of: 2011-11-21



The Concordia men's hockey team is off to a hot start in 2011-12, with much of the credit due to the Cobbers' goaltending. Sophomore goalie **Chris Neamonitis** (Montreal, Que., Estevan Bruins) has had a breakthrough season thus far, and has combined with fellow sophomore Kelly Andrew to give Concordia a great 1-2 punch in the net. That was on full display last weekend as the Cobbers swept Bethel with back-to-back shutouts, highlighted by a 1-0 win Saturday in which Neamonitis stopped nearly 40 shots to blank the Royals. For his performance, Neamonitis has been named the MIAC Men's Hockey Athlete-of-the-Week.

After Concordia scored a 2-0 win with Andrew in net on Friday, Neamonitis was sensational in Saturday's shutout, stopping 37 Bethel shots without allowing a single goal to help complete the sweep with a 1-0 victory. Though Saturday's performance was likely Neamonitis' best of the season, he's been consistently good through the first month of play. The sophomore hasn't lost yet with a 3-0-1 record in net, and he currently leads the MIAC in goals against average (1.27), save percentage (.961) and winning percentage (.875). He's allowed just six goals while making 146 saves in 284:08 minutes this season.

Thanks to their strong defense, the Cobbers have started the 2010-11 season 5-2-1 overall with a 2-1-1 MIAC record. Concordia's five points in the conference standings has them in a tie for the third place. The Cobbers return to the ice Wednesday to host UW-Superior in a 5 p.m. nonconference game before taking a short Holiday break. They'll resume MIAC play on Dec. 2-3 when they host St. Thomas for a big early-season MIAC series.

### **Nick Widing, Hamline**





There were some questions surrounding the Hamline men's hockey team heading into the 2011-12 season after the Pipers captured MIAC regular season and playoff titles a year ago, but thus far, freshman **Nick Widing** (Somerset, Wis./Hill-Murray) has had a lot of answers. The standout first-year forward has had a great start to his college hockey career, factoring in on two overtime game-winning goals among his six points in Hamline's 4-2 start. As a result of his outstanding early-season performance, Widing has been named the first MIAC Men's Hockey Athlete-of-the-Week of the 2011-12 season.

Widing's performance has been a big reason that Hamline is 4-0 against MIAC teams and atop the MIAC standings with a 2-0 record and four points after the first weekend of conference play. Widing scored his first big goal of the season when he netted the overtime game winner to help the Pipers beat Augsburg in the MIAC showcase. Friday, he scored the goal that gave Hamline the lead for good in a high-scoring 6-4 game with Saint Mary's, and on Saturday he assisted on the Pipers last two goals, including the overtime game-winner, to help secure a Hamline sweep of the Cardinals. His six points are tied for fifth in the league, his three goals are tied for third, and he leads the MIAC with four power play points.

Hamline used the weekend sweep of Saint Mary's to improve to 4-2 overall and start 2-0 in MIAC play. The Pipers are currently in the "Others receiving votes" section of the USCHO.com Division III Men's Top 15 Poll. Hamline received seven points in the poll, essentially ranking it No. 22 in Division III. Hamline heads to Northfield Friday to begin a weekend series with St. Olaf at 7 p.m. The Pipers host Saturday's game with the Oles with the puck set to drop at 7 p.m. at the Vadnais Heights Sports Center.