

UST's Williams, Boeser lead 2016-7 MIAC Men's Hockey Awards

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BLOOMINGTON, Minn. – The University of St. Thomas enjoyed a memorable season on the ice in 2016-17, so it was no surprise when, Tuesday, the Tommies swept the top individual honors with the announcement of the 2016-17 Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Men's Hockey Awards.

UST's Thomas Williams (Alexandria, Minn.) took home the conference's top honor as the senior forward was named the 2016-17 MIAC Men's Hockey Player-of-the-Year. St. Thomas was honored further as Williams' coach, Jeff Boeser, was voted 2016-17 MIAC Men's Hockey Coach-of-the-Year by his peers. The MIAC also announced All-Conference, All-Conference Honorable Mention, All-Rookie and All-MIAC Sportsmanship Teams. All awards were nominated and voted on by the MIAC's nine head coaches.

Williams did it all for the Tommies en route to their conference championship to result in his well-deserved Player-of-the-Year selection. The St. Thomas forward and captain had an outstanding senior campaign in the MIAC, as he led the league with 22 points in conference games, ranked fifth in assists (13) and sixth in goals scored (nine). He finished with a plus-8 rating while he was on the ice in MIAC play, scored three power-play goals and contributed a pair of game-winning goals.

Overall, Williams tallied 24 points to rank ninth in the MIAC in scoring, with 10 goals and 14 assists to also rank in the top 11 in those categories. He finished with a plus-7 rating overall. In addition to his Player-of-the-Year award, Williams was named to the MIAC All-Conference team – his first conference honor since earning All-Rookie Team honors in 2013-14. Boeser described Williams as, "The heart and soul of our hockey team ... [he] has the biggest heart of any player I ever coached."

For his role in the Tommies' success, Boeser received the third MIAC Coach-of-the-Year award in his seven-year career leading UST. He was also named the conference's Coach-of-the-Year following the 2011-12 season, and the 2013-14 campaign. This season, he helped St. Thomas win its fifth MIAC championship in the last six seasons, and the program's 31st overall conference crown.

Boeser's Tommies finished 14-8-5 overall and 11-3-2 in conference play with 33 points, as they claimed the conference title on the season's final day. St. Thomas was the No. 1 seed in the MIAC Playoffs, where it reached the championship game and narrowly missed adding another title in a 3-2 loss to Augsburg. This year Boeser coached Williams to Player-of-the-Year honors and guided UST players to five All-Conference nods and another two student-athletes to All-Rookie Team accolades.

In addition to Player-of-the-Year Williams, the MIAC All-Conference team was headlined by a trio of players who received All-MIAC honors for the third-straight season. Saint Mary's senior forwards Martin Gruse and Bob Kinne and Augsburg senior forward Corbin Chapman each capped their careers with third-straight All-Conference honors. Augsburg's Nate Flynn and Rory Vesel, Hamline's Mitch Hall, and St. Thomas' Johnny Roisum were all repeat All-Conference selections as well this season.

The MIAC-champion Tommies were well-represented on the All-Conference Team with five players recognized. Hamline had four All-MIAC selections, Augsburg and Concordia had three each, Saint Mary's and Saint John's each had two players honored and St. Olaf had one selection. The team was certainly senior-laden, with 10 seniors on the 20-player team to go along with five juniors, three sophomores and two freshmen.

As part of a conference-wide sportsmanship initiative, the MIAC also announced the 11th annual All-MIAC Sportsmanship team for men's hockey. Members of the All-MIAC Sportsmanship team are selected by their coaches and teammates as individuals who demonstrate ideals of positive sportsmanship both on and off the field of competition.



2016-17 MIAC Men's Hockey Awards

Player-of-the-Year - Thomas Williams, St. Thomas (Sr., Forward, Alexandria, Minn.)

Coach-of-the-Year - Jeff Boeser (7th season)

2016-17 MIAC Men's Hockey All-Conference Team

<u>Name</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Hometown/High School</u>
Corbin Chapman	Augsburg	Sr.	Forward	Burnsville, Minn.
Michael Dockry	St. Thomas	Sr.	Forward	Burnsville, Minn.
Nate Flynn	Augsburg	Jr.	Forward	Hastings, Minn.
Jon Grebosky	Concordia	Jr.	Forward	Oakdale, Pa. / West Allegheny
Martin Gruse	Saint Mary's	Sr.	Forward	Trenton, Mich.
Mitch Hall	Hamline	So.	Defense	St. Cloud, Minn. / Tech
D.J. Jones	St. Thomas	Sr.	Defense	Plymouth, Minn. / Wayzata
Russ Jordan	Hamline	Jr.	Forward	Aurora, Ill. / Wauhonsi Valley
Bob Kinne	Saint Mary's	Sr.	Forward	St. Paul, Minn. / Cretin-Derham Hall
Jordan Krebsbach	Concordia	Sr.	Defense	Virginia, Minn.
Mitch McPherson	Hamline	So.	Forward	Peoria, Ill. / Richwoods
Benjamin Myers	St. Thomas	So.	Goalie	Milwaukee, Wis. / University School
Sam Nelson	Concordia	Fr.	Goalie	Eau Claire, Wis. / Regis
Drew Otto	St. Olaf	Jr.	Forward	Menomonie, Wis.
Johnny Roisum	St. Thomas	Sr.	Defense	Bloomington, Minn. / Jefferson
Cole Souto	Saint John's	Fr.	Defense	Yorba Linda, Calif. / La Entrada
Sam Valerius	Saint John's	Jr.	Forward	Maple Grove, Minn.
Rory Vesel	Augsburg	Sr.	Defense	Rochester, Minn. / Lourdes
Brandon Wahlin	Hamline	Sr.	Forward	White Bear Lake, Minn.
Thomas Williams	St. Thomas	Sr.	Forward	Alexandria, Minn.

2016-17 MIAC Men's Hockey All-Rookie Team

<u>Name</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Hometown/High School</u>
Quinn Fuchs	Concordia	Fr.	Forward	Moorhead, Minn. / Minot
Brett Gravelle	St. Thomas	Fr.	Forward	Forest Lake, Minn.
Brady Heppner	Saint John's	Fr.	Forward	Crookston, Minn.
Kyle Meeh	Saint Mary's	Fr.	Defense	Fenton, Mo.
Sam Nelson	Concordia	Fr.	Goalie	Eau Claire, Wis. / Regis
Johnny Panvica	St. Thomas	Fr.	Forward	Bloomington, Minn. / Jefferson
Cole Souto	Saint John's	Fr.	Defense	Yorba Linda, Calif. / La Entrada

2016-17 MIAC Men's Hockey All-Conference Honorable Mention

<u>Name</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Hometown/High School</u>
Justin Bonanno	Bethel	Jr.	Forward	Colbert, Wash. / Marysville
Michael Bond	Bethel	Sr.	Defense	Fargo, N.D. / Austin
Garrett Hendrickson	Concordia	Sr.	Forward	Virginia, Minn.
Jude Hull	St. Olaf	Jr.	Goalie	Stillwater, Minn. / Mounds Park Academy
Jeremy Johnson	Concordia	Sr.	Forward	West Fargo, N.D.
Jesse Kessler	Hamline	Jr.	Defense	Nashville, Tenn.
Kyle Meeh	Saint Mary's	Fr.	Defense	Fenton, Mo.
Justin Quale	Hamline	So.	Goalie	Hopkins, Minn. / Benilde-St. Margaret's
Huba Sekesi	Saint John's	Jr.	Forward	Germering, Germany / Carl-Spitzweg-Gymnasium
Nick Schmit	Augsburg	So.	Goalie	Fargo, N.D. / North
Steven Sherman	St. Olaf	Sr.	Forward	San Diego, Calif. / Scripps Ranch

2016-17 Men's Hockey All-MIAC Sportsmanship Team

Augsburg – Max Pernhem (Jr., Stockholm, Sweden / Dragonskolan)
 Bethel – Al Nejme (Jr., Lancaster, Penn. / Taft)
 Concordia – Mark Huneke (Jr., Hastings, Minn.)
 Gustavus – Joe Lindberg (Sr., Excelsior, Minn. / Minnetonka)
 Hamline – Dan Bartkowiak (Sr., Verona, Wis.)
 Saint John's – Daniel Tripicchio (Sr., Hudson, Wis.)

Saint Mary's – Kelvin Walz (Jr., Woodbury, Minn.)
St. Olaf – Drew Otto (Jr., Menomonie, Wis.)
St. Thomas – D.J. Jones (Sr., Plymouth, Minn. / Wayzata)

[MIAC Men's Hockey Home Page](#)