

# 2006-2007 MIAC Men's Hockey Preview

Year in and year out, some of the best hockey in the "State of Hockey" is played in the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (MIAC). This year will be no exception as nine teams enter the 2006-07 season with aspirations of capturing the MIAC Championship. St. Thomas is ranked first in the 2006-07 MIAC Coach's Poll followed by Bethel, Saint John's, St. Olaf, and Gustavus. Those five teams earned bids to the MIAC Playoffs last season, but will be challenged by Saint Mary's, Augsburg, Hamline and Concordia in 2006-07. The MIAC Men's Hockey Playoffs will take place February 27 - March 3, 2007.

Preseason favorite St. Thomas enters 2006-07 with the goal of repeating as MIAC regular season champions. The Tommies will need to fill the void created by three graduated All-Americans in order to defend their title. Senior captains Nick Harris and Kevin Rollwagen will attempt to fill that void and lead the St. Thomas offense in 2006-07. Bethel looks ready to contend for the conference championship as the Royals return seven players with All-MIAC honors. Preseason All-USCHO West Region second team selection Neal Carlson will be a player to watch on the Bethel defense. Perennial conference power Saint John's enters 2006-07 with the youngest team in recent memory. The Johnnies will rely on senior Blake Williams to provide leadership to a squad that graduated Saint John's most successful senior class in school history last season.

2005-06 MIAC Playoff champion St. Olaf will hope to ride the momentum of last season's postseason run in 2006-07. The Oles are led defensively by All-MIAC junior John Paulson. Gustavus enters the season with hopes of qualifying for the conference playoffs for the sixth consecutive year. The Gusties will look to Preseason All-Americans Jon Keseley and Mike Hosfield for leadership in 2006-07. With 15 freshman and two transfers on the roster Saint Mary's coach Don Olson enters his 30th season with many new faces to learn. But Olson's Cardinals do have many talented returners including All-MIAC junior forward Adam Gill.


First-year head coach Chris Brown will attempt to direct Augsburg back into the MIAC Playoffs in 2006-07. The Auggies feature Preseason All-American senior forwards Aaron Johnson and Critter Nagurski. Hamline will definitely be young with no seniors and only two juniors on their 27-man roster, but the Pipers will have solid depth and talent. Sophomore forward Dustin Fulton returns after earning All-MIAC honors last season when he led the Pipers in goals, assists, and points. Bolstered by the experience gained last season, Concordia will look to break out from the bottom of the MIAC in 2006-07. Seniors Mark Buchholz and Dan Perry will anchor the young Cobbers this year.

## 2006-07 MIAC Preseason Men's Hockey Coach's Poll

(First Place Votes in Parentheses)


- 1. St. Thomas (5)
- 2. Bethel (3)
- 3. Saint John's
- 4. St. Olaf (1)
- 5. Gustavus
- 6. Saint Mary's
- 7. Augsburg
- 8. Hamline
- 9. Concordia


2006-07 MIAC Men's Hockey Playoffs		
<b>First Round</b> Tuesday, February 27 #5 Seed @ # 4 Seed	<b>Semifinals</b> Thursday, March 1 #4/#5 Winner @ #1 Seed #3 Seed @ #2 Seed	<b>Championship</b> Saturday, March 3 Finals @ High Seed

Augsburg College		
Head Coach:	Chris Brown (1st season)	
2005-06 Record:	9-13-3 overall, 5-8-3 MIAC (7th)	


<b>Key Returners:</b>	<p><b>Aaron Johnson</b> (Sr., F, Plymouth, Minn./Robbinsdale Armstrong) 2005-06: Led Division III in total points and assists; Division III All-American first team; All-MIAC first team</p> <p><b>Critter Nagurski</b> (Sr., F, International Falls, Minn.) Preseason All-USCHO first team in 2006-07; All-MIAC first team in 2005-06 and 2004-05</p> <p><b>Danny Carlson</b> (Jr., F, Roseville, Minn.) Third on team in overall scoring in 2005-06; All-MIAC honorable mention in 2004-05</p> <p><b>Brett Way</b> (So., F, Grand Ledge, Mich.) 7G-6A--13P in 2005-06; voted team's Rookie of the Year in 2005-06</p> <p><b>Dan Leopold</b> (Jr., D, Afton, Minn./Stillwater) Leading scorer among defenders in 2005-06 (4G-9A--13P); 5G-11A--16P in career (49 games)</p> <p><b>Chad Georgell</b> (Sr., D, North Pole, Alaska/Fairbanks Lathrop) 2G-5A--7P in 13 games at Augsburg in 2005-06</p>
<b>Season Preview:</b>	<p>There hasn't been a lot of change on the bench for the Augsburg College men's hockey team over the past five decades. Over the last 47 seasons, just three men have served as head coach for the Auggies -- Ed Saugestad for 37 seasons, Mark Wick for five seasons as co-head coach with Saugestad, and Mike Schwartz for the last 10 years.</p> <p>Now, a new head coach steps behind the bench with hopes of carrying on the long and storied tradition of Auggie hockey. Chris Brown, who had bookended two stints as an assistant coach under Schwartz with a successful five-year term of head coaching at Marian (Wis.) and Hamline, was named head coach for the Auggies in April.</p> <p>Augsburg finished 9-13-3 overall, 5-8-3 in Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference play last season. The Auggies aim to return to the MIAC's five-team postseason playoffs this season after a three-year absence.</p> <p>Two of the top forwards in NCAA Division III hockey -- Aaron Johnson (Sr., Plymouth, Minn./Robbinsdale Armstrong HS) and Critter Nagurski (Sr., International Falls, Minn.) -- return to the Auggie lineup for their senior seasons, leading a group of 20 returning letterwinners.</p> <p>A first-team All-American selection last season, Johnson led the nation in both points per game (1.96) and assists per game (1.44), as he collected 13 goals and 36 assists for 49 points. He led the MIAC in both overall games and conference games-only (32 points) scoring, as well as assists in both categories (23 in league play).</p> <p>Nagurski, a three-time All-MIAC selection, led the MIAC in goals scored in both overall (21) and conference games only (15), finishing with 34 points (21 goals, 13 assists). His goals-per-game average of 0.84 was fifth-best among Division III players last season.</p> <p>The duo will lead a balanced attack of returning scorers, with six of the top 10 scorers from last season back in uniform. Danny Carlson (Jr., Roseville, Minn.) collected 25 points, including 18 assists last year. Brett Way (So., Grand Ledge, Mich.) was also a solid scorer, with seven goals and six assists. Greg May (Sr., Burnsville, Minn.) returns with three years of experience, contributing 11 points (three goals, eight assists) last season, while Kellen Chamblee (So., Falcon Heights, Minn.) had a solid debut season, with four goals and 10 points.</p> <p>On defense, three key returners return -- Chad Georgell (Sr., North Pole, Alaska/Faribanks Lathrop HS), Dan Leopold (Jr., Afton, Minn./Stillwater HS) and Tom Doyle (Sr., St. Paul, Minn./Como Park HS). Leopold was the top scorer among Auggie defenders last season (four goals, nine assists, 13 points), while Doyle contributed eight asists. Georgell, who transferred to the program mid-season, collected seven points (two goals, five assists) in 13 games.</p> <p>Brown said that the Auggies' goalie situation is the "X-factor" this season, but adds that it is a good burden to have, given the talent of three varsity players in goal -- Andy Kent (So., Lakeville, Minn.), Adam Hendel (Jr., Bay City, Wis./Red Wing (Minn.) HS) and Michael Henrichsen (Jr., Bothell, Wash.).</p> <p>Kent saw action in four games last season as a freshman, playing behind two seniors. Henrichsen has been a key junior varsity goalie the last two seasons, and moves up to the varsity this year. Hendel returns to competitive hockey after earning all-state honors in high school and playing for the Fairbanks (Alaska) Ice Dogs in junior hockey.</p> <p>Complete Augsburg preview at: <a href="http://www.augsburg.edu/athletics/mhockey/0607preview.html">http://www.augsburg.edu/athletics/mhockey/0607preview.html</a></p>

<b>Bethel University</b>	
<b>Head Coach:</b>	Peter Aus (13th season)


<b>2005-06 Record:</b>	10-14-2 overall, 8-6-2 MIAC (Tied 4th)	
<b>Key Returners:</b>	<p><b>Neal Carlson</b> (Sr., D, Roseville, Minn.) All-MIAC</p> <p><b>Jon Kramer</b> (Sr., FW, St. Paul, Minn.) All-MIAC honorable mention</p> <p><b>Ryan Adams</b> (Sr., FW, Litchfield, Minn.)</p> <p><b>Steve Eastman</b> (Jr., FW, Edina, Minn.) All-MIAC honorable mention</p> <p><b>Dan Bonne</b> (Jr., FW, White Bear Lake, Minn.) All-MIAC honorable mention</p> <p><b>Jeff Balvin</b> (Jr., FW, Maple Grove, Minn.) All-MIAC</p> <p><b>Kent Bostrom</b> (So., FW, Mounds View, Minn.) All-MIAC</p>	
<b>Season Preview:</b>	<p>After a disappointing loss in the semifinals of the MIAC playoffs to end the 2005-06 season, Bethel is primed and motivated to have a big year. With only three players graduating and a strong incoming class, the Royals enter the 2006-07 season with very high expectations and will look to contend for a MIAC championship.</p> <p>While the departure of three graduating seniors will impact this year's team, it may be an understatement to say Bethel has reloaded. Returning for Bethel are seven players with All-MIAC honors, as well as a countless group of players who have high levels of experience. The offensive core will be led by All-MIAC honorees Kent Bostrom (Mounds View, Minn.), Jeff Balvin (Maple Grove, Minn.), Dan Bonne (White Bear Lake, Minn.), Brad Peterson (Bloomington, Minn.), and Jon Kramer (St. Paul, Minn.), all of whom will be looked to spark this year's offense. Possibly the biggest threat is Bostrom who a season ago scored 18 goals and had 15 assists for 33 points. Bostrom's point total led all freshmen and was good enough for eighth place in the MIAC scoring race. In the clutch, his four game winning goals led the MIAC and scored seventh best in the nation.</p> <p>On the blue line, the Royals will be led by All-MIAC and preseason USCHO All-West region second team honoree Neal Carlson (Roseville, Minn.). As co-captain, Carlson will look to improve upon a strong 2005-06 campaign in which he finished with six goals and 18 assists for a combined 24 total points. Carlson led all Royals defensemen in points scored and finished ranked 17th in the MIAC for points scored. He also ended the season tied for 2nd in MIAC defensemen scoring. The addition of All-MIAC forward, Steve Eastman (Edina, Minn.) to the defensive corps will hopefully pay significant dividends especially on the special team units. Junior Bill Menozzi (Lakeville, Minn.) will also once again be a key contributor and will log numerous minutes on the ice this season.</p> <p>Between the pipes the Royals return senior Dustin Thompson (Lino Lakes, Minn.), a three-year starter and have added three first year players who will add depth at the position. Included in this group is newcomer Aaron Damjanovich (Remer, Minn.) who comes to Bethel with junior hockey experience and a strong track record.</p> <p>This year's incoming class will again be very strong with the additions of Rory Dynan (Maple Plain, Minn.), Pat Dynan (Maple Plain, Minn.), Matt Hall (Brooklyn Park, Minn.), Josh Brodeen (Warroad, Minn.), and Benoit Duhamel (Drummondville, Quebec). All five are highly skilled and will compete for immediate playing time.</p> <p>Complete Bethel preview at: <a href="http://cas.bethel.edu/athletics/Hockey/2007/preview.htm">http://cas.bethel.edu/athletics/Hockey/2007/preview.htm</a></p>	

<b>Concordia College</b>		
<b>Head Coach:</b>	Steve Baumgartner (21st season)	
<b>2005-06 Record:</b>	5-18-2 overall, 0-15-1 MIAC (9th)	


<b>Key Returners:</b>	<p><b>Mark Buchholz</b> (Sr., D, Moorhead, Minn.) Led the team in assists (14) and third in scoring in 2005-06; three-year starter</p> <p><b>Dan Perry</b> (Sr., F, Fergus Falls, Minn.) Led the team in scoring in 2005-06 with 19 points; Team MVP in 2005-06</p> <p><b>Chris Babich</b> (So., D, Eveleth, Minn.) Concordia Co-Rookie of the Year; fourth on the team in scoring with 13 pts.</p> <p><b>Carl Babich</b> (So., D, Eveleth, Minn.) Concordia Co-Rookie of the Year; fifth on the team in scoring with 11 pts.</p>
<b>Season Preview:</b>	<p>The 2006-07 Concordia men's hockey team will be hoping that a year of experience will lead to a significant leap in conference victories and a more consistent performance on the ice from the beginning of the season to the end. In 2005-06, the Cobbers started with four straight wins but were then only able to win one more time in their next 21 games.</p> <p>In order to make the turn from a team that struggled in conference play to one that will contend for a spot in the five-team MIAC playoffs, Concordia head coach Steve Baumgartner, who will be entering his 21st season behind the bench, will be hoping that his bumper crop of freshmen last season will turn into a solid corps of established players this year. The Cobbers had 18 first-year players on the roster last year and the best thing about that fact is they will all be sophomores this season. A group of 11 sophomores returns this year and will provide the backbone of a team looking for its first conference victory since the end of the 2004-05 campaign.</p> <p>Despite the league-win drought, optimism can be seen throughout the Cobber camp. Concordia will have a slew of solid forwards and a trio of returning capable blueliners to go along with their leading goaltender from a year ago.</p> <p>Senior co-captain Dan Perry (Fergus Falls, Minn.) will lead the scoring brigade for Concordia. He led the team in scoring in 2005-06 with 19 points and his 6-5, 220-lb frame makes him a sizable force around the net at all times. He will be joined by fellow captain Tyler Neu (Jr., Wadena, Minn./Wadena-Deer Creek HS) who had four goals and six assists last year but was second on the team in power play goals with three. Baumgartner will also look for the Moorhead duo of Ryan Clukey and Cory Johnson to up their totals from a year ago. Clukey had nine points, while Johnson finished with seven after playing in only 15 games because of his duty with the Concordia football team.</p> <p>Senior defenseman Mark Buchholz (Moorhead, Minn.) will return for his fourth season as one of the teams' top defensive specialists. Buchholz is a formidable two-way player who can also put points on the board. Last year he finished second on the team in scoring and led the team in assists. He had all of his points from his 14 assists in 2005-06. Along with Buchholz, Concordia will feature the Babich twins. Both players will be aided by a year of experience in the MIAC. Chris and Carl Babich (So., Eveleth, Minn./Eveleth-Gilbert HS) were named the team's Co-Rookies of the Year in 2005-06 and will need to step up their play this season if the Cobbers are to contend for a playoff spot.</p> <p>Goaltending will once again be a key issue for the Cobbers. Not since the days of two-time All-American Bryan Howard in 2000-01 has Concordia had a netminder that consistently played at a high level for an entire season. There have been flashes of brilliance between the pipes in the seasons since, but nothing that has helped the Cobbers get back into the upper echelon of MIAC teams.</p> <p>Sophomore Jeremy Boniface (Goderich, Ontario/St. Annes HS) will be the top returning candidate for Concordia. He started 15 games last year and led the team with a 5.71 goals against average. Two other goalies will also be thrown into the mix. Josh Hand (Temple, Pa./Holy name HS) played in only five games last year as a freshman and had a 1-1 record. First-year goalie Mike Persson (Regina, Sask./Penticton HS) will be the one unknown and could push both returners for the top spot.</p> <p>The Cobbers open play on Friday, Nov. 4 when they play at Northland College (Wis.) for a two-game series. Concordia will then begin their quest for their first conference victory in two seasons when they host Gustavus on Nov. 17-18.</p> <p>Complete Concordia preview at: <a href="http://www.cord.edu/dept/sports/winter/mh/0607seasonpreview.php">http://www.cord.edu/dept/sports/winter/mh/0607seasonpreview.php</a></p>

<b>Gustavus Adolphus College</b>			
<b>Head Coach:</b>	Brett Petersen (7th season)		
<b>2005-06 Record:</b>	14-10-1 overall, 9-7-0 MIAC (Tied 4th)		


<b>Key Returners:</b>	<p><b>Jon Keseley</b> (Sr., D, St. Louis Park, Minn.) 2006 ACHA Second Team All-America, 2006 All-MIAC, 17g, 24a, 41pts in 2005-06.</p> <p><b>Mike Hosfield</b> (Sr., F, Golden Valley, Minn. ) 2005-06 All-MIAC, 19g, 17a, 36pts in 2005-06, 2006-07 co-captain.</p> <p><b>Jay Phillips</b> (Sr., D, Bemidji, Minn.) 0g, 6a, 6 pts in 2005-06.</p> <p><b>Sami Idris</b> (Jr., F, Gothenburg, Sweden) 11g, 15a, 26pts in 2005-06.</p>
<b>Season Preview:</b>	<p>The Gustavus men's hockey team will blend some key returners with a large group of fresh, new faces in hopes of finishing near the top of the MIAC and qualifying for the conference playoffs for the sixth consecutive year. Coach Brett Petersen will look to senior All-America defenseman Jon Keseley, senior All-Conference forward Mike Hosfield, and nine returning letterwinners to lead the way for 13 newcomers who will put on the Gustavus sweater for the first time.</p> <p>Keseley, a high scoring defenseman, and Hosfield, a forward with a gift for lighting the lamp, were the Gusties top two scorers last season with 41 (17g, 24a) and 36 (19g, 17a) points, respectively. Both players were named to the All-Conference team, while Keseley was named to the American Hockey Coaches Association (AHCA) All-America team. Other top returners include senior co-captain Jay Phillips, who will anchor the Gustie defense with Keseley, junior forward Sami Idris (11g, 15a-26 pts.), senior forward Steven Jensen (8g, 10a-18 pts.), senior forward John Arundel (6g, 11a-17 pts.), junior forward Ben Olilla (5g, 11a-16 pts.), and junior forward Tim Ornell (3g, 12a-15 pts.).</p> <p>While the offense will be the strength of the squad, the defensive end is an area where the squad will be quite inexperienced. Kesely and Phillips are the only two defensemen returning that played significant minutes last year. In addition, Coach Petersen does not return a goaltender that played in more than two games a year ago as graduated senior Erik Kraska played virtually every minute in the nets last season. Junior transfer Niko Suoraniemi (Bemidji State) will be a welcome addition on the defense and sophomore Tomas Liskutin will move into a significant role after playing in 10 games last year. In the nets, Petersen is starting with four netminders. That group includes freshman Nate Fischer, and sophomores Joel Rindelaub, John Paszkiewicz, and Kevin Johnson. Johnson played in two games a year ago compiling a mark of 0-1-0 with a 3.81 goals against average, while Paskiewicz, played in one game and posted a record of 1-0-0 with a 2.00 goals against average. Fischer and Rindelaub have not ever started a collegiate contest.</p> <p>The Gusties will be tested early as they face three teams that are being mentioned in the national poll to start the season. The opening weekend, Gustavus will face #11 UW-River Falls and UW-Stout on the road, and then the following weekend, the squad will host #10 UW-Superior and #20 St. Scholastica.</p>

<b>Hamline University</b>		
<b>Head Coach:</b>	Scott Bell (2nd season)	
<b>2005-06 Record:</b>	4-16-3 overall, 3-11-2 MIAC (8th)	
<b>Key Returners:</b>	<p><b>Dustin Fulton</b> (So., F, Brooklyn Park, Minn./Breck) All-MIAC first team and All-Rookie after leading the Pipers with 10 goals and 15 assists for 25 points in 2005-06.</p> <p><b>Joe Long</b> (So., F, Dayton, Minn./Elk River) All-MIAC honorable mention in 2005-06. Second on the team with seven goals and 15 assists for 22 points.</p> <p><b>Justin Hanna</b> (So., F/D, Roseville, Minn.) Third on the team in scoring with seven goals and seven assists for 14 points.</p> <p><b>Todor Petkov</b> (Jr, G, Boucherville, Quebec) Started 18 games last season. Had a 4.49 goals against average and .870 save percentage.</p>	


<b>Season Preview:</b>	<p>The Hamline men's hockey team will adopt a "young guns" attitude for the 2006-07 season. That approach makes sense as the Pipers will definitely be young with no seniors and only two juniors on a 27-man roster. Second-year head coach Scott Bell thinks the firepower will come from both the talent and depth the first-years and sophomores bring to the table.</p> <p>Championship hockey teams are built up the middle, and Hamline will be young, but strong in that area. Junior Todor Petkov (Boucherville, Quebec) returns in net, but that key position will be anchored with the addition of first-year Matt Wanvig (Brooklyn Park, Minn.).</p> <p>Petkov started 18 games for the Pipers last season, while Wanvig was selected an all-conference, Great "8" Senior Showcase, and Elite League All-Star player at Osseo High School.</p> <p>The blue line might emerge as Hamline's strength, where four first-years will join three sophomores. Sophomore Justin Hanna (Roseville, Minn.) has all-conference potential, after scoring 14 points (seven goals and seven assists) in 21 games as a first-year. Classmates Matt Zilles (Stillwater, Minn.) and Kyle Turner (Hudson, Wis.) logged veteran-type minutes last season, playing all 25 games for the Pipers.</p> <p>Three first-years – Jimmy Van Asch (Blaine, Minn.), Dustin Postell (Wadena, Minn.), and Cole Scattarelli (Elk River, Minn.) join the Pipers from the Junior "A" ranks. Van Asch and Postell played for Fairbanks and Alexandria in the NAHL while Scattarelli played for Green Mountain and the EJHL. The trio add grit and stability to the defensive corps. First-year Cory Krogen (Marshall, Minn.) has a big upside, while 6-4 first-year Sam Lundquist (Gillette, Wyo.) will add a big presence.</p> <p>The forwards return some potent firepower, led by returning sophomore captains Dustin Fulton (Brooklyn Park, Minn.) and Joe Long (Dayton, Minn.). Fulton led the team with 25 points and 10 goals during his first-year campaign, while Long tallied 22 points and was voted team Most Valuable Player. Fulton was named All-MIAC first team and All-Rookie team while Long was All-MIAC honorable mention.</p> <p>Complete Hamline preview at: <a href="http://www.hamline.edu/hamline_info/athletics/mens_hockey/0607/outlook.html">http://www.hamline.edu/hamline_info/athletics/mens_hockey/0607/outlook.html</a></p>
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<b><u>Saint John's University</u></b>		
<b>Head Coach:</b>	John Harrington (14th season)	
<b>2005-06 Record:</b>	16-7-3 overall, 11-3-2 MIAC (2nd)	
<b>Key Returners:</b>	<b>Blake Williams</b> (Sr., F, Brooklyn Park, Minn.) <b>Tom Freeman</b> (Jr., F, Eagan, Minn.) <b>Pat Eagles</b> (Jr., F, Falcon Heights, Minn.)	

<b>Season Preview:</b>	<p>The 2006-07 Saint John's University hockey team enters this season with a great deal of youth, skill and a mindset to return to the NCAA playoffs.</p> <p>"We're really excited about the upcoming season...there's lots of enthusiasm and energy," said head coach John Harrington.</p> <p>Last year the Johnnies finished with an overall record of 16-7-3 and an 11-3-2 record in the MIAC. This year the SJU hockey team is expected to return 16 players from last year, including 10 forwards and six defensemen.</p> <p>Key returnees for the Johnnies include senior forward Blake Williams (Brooklyn Park, Minn.) along with junior forward Tom Freeman (Eagan, Minn.) and junior forward Pat Eagles (Falcon Heights, Minn.). Williams, this year's team captain, scored eight goals and passed out 13 assists for a total of 21 points last season and earned first-team All-MIAC honors for his efforts. Meanwhile, Freeman finished the 2005-06 season with 23 points (15g/8a) from the blue line and was named honorable mention All-MIAC. Eagles played in all 26 games last season and posted 19 points (6g/13a).</p> <p>Sophomores forwards Jake Hipp (Bismarck, N.D.), Brian Baker (Brooklyn Park, Minn.) and Scott Paul (Duluth, Minn.) will also receive more active roles this season. Hipp was named to the MIAC All-Rookie team last year after he tallied 19 points (9g/10a) in 25 games. Baker and Paul combined for three points (1g/2a) in limited action last season.</p> <p>Harrington will need to replace the most successful senior class in school history from a year ago. In total, last year's graduating class departed with an 81-21-7 career overall record and a 53-7-4 career record in the MIAC. Among those Harrington will need to replace is goaltender Adam Hanna, last year's Sid Watson Memorial Award recipient as Division III's most outstanding hockey player. A three-time All-American, Hanna recently signed with the ECHL's Long Beach Ice Dogs. Other key graduates include forward Ryan Langenbrunner, SJU's all-time assist leader with 81; defenseman Darryl Smoleroff, a three-time All-American and four-time All-MIAC selection; and another three-time All-American, forward Scott Bjorklund.</p> <p>Harrington will rely on a rash of new, talented faces this season. The first task will be to find someone who can assume the duties between the pipes on a consistent basis. Two sophomore transfers, Vince Wheeler (Clearwater, Minn.), from Division I Lake Superior State and twin brother of defenseman Lance Wheeler, and Andy Cook (Golden Valley, Minn.) from Division III Colby College, may be the answer for the Johnnies.</p> <p>Offensively, sophomore Clayton Rehm (Park Rapids, Minn.), freshman Karl Gilbert (Hermantown, Minn.) and freshman Kyle Henkemeyer (Sauk Rapids, Minn.) will look to provide a youthful spark for the Johnnies. Rehm, a member of the MIAC's All-Rookie team last season, transferred from rival St. Thomas for this academic school year after tallying seven points (1g/6a) for the Tommies in 2005-06.</p> <p>Harrington will enter his 14th season as head hockey coach at SJU in 2006-07 and has the 11th best winning percentage in NCAA Division III among active coaches. The winningest hockey coach in SJU history, Harrington enters this season with a career record of 219-116-27 overall and 144-44-20 in the MIAC. SJU has made an appearance in the MIAC playoffs 12 times and the NCAA tournament five times under Harrington's tenure. Adding another winning season last year, the Johnnies have now had 11 consecutive winning seasons (1996-2006), the longest streak in school history.</p> <p>Complete Saint John's preview at: <a href="http://www.gojohnnies.com/hockey/2006-07%20preview.htm">http://www.gojohnnies.com/hockey/2006-07%20preview.htm</a></p>
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<b>Saint Mary's University</b>		
<b>Head Coach:</b>	Don Olson (30th season)	
<b>2005-06 Record:</b>	9-14-1 overall, 8-8-0 MIAC (6th)	
<b>Key Returners:</b>	<p><b>Adam Gill</b> (Jr., F, Rochester, Minn.) First-Team All-MIAC in 2005-06, Led team in goals (15) and points (27). Also had 12 assists.</p> <p><b>David Gross</b> (Jr., F, Grasston, Minn./Pine City ) 2005-06: 7 G, 9 A, 16 Pts</p> <p><b>Andy Roberts</b> (So., F, Rochester, Minn.) 2005-06: 5 G, 5 A, 10 Pts</p> <p><b>Jesse Polk</b> (Jr., F, Hastings, Minn.) 2005-06: 5 G, 4 A, 9 Pts</p>	

<b>Season Preview:</b>	<p>When the Saint Mary's University men's hockey team takes the ice for their season-opening against UW-Stevens Point on Nov. 3, it will mark the 30th season behind the bench for head coach Don Olson.</p> <p>During each of those 30 years, one of the toughest tasks Olson faces actually has nothing to do with the sport of hockey, it's the preseason ritual of learning the names of all his players.</p> <p>And this year, that has proven tougher than ever.</p> <p>Having 15 freshmen, and two junior transfers, among your 31-man roster will do that to a coach.</p> <p>"There are certainly a number of new faces," said Olson with a smile. "With graduation and whatnot, your roster changes a bit every year, but getting a handle on all the new names and faces has been a bit tougher than usual this year."</p> <p>Inexperienced and untested isn't exactly the way Olson would like to go into the MIAC season, but the veteran coach isn't about to count out the Cardinals when it comes to post-season berths.</p> <p>"The MIAC just keeps getting tougher and tougher," said Olson, whose team finished sixth a year ago, missing a berth in the five-team playoffs during the final week of the season. "This group is driven to get back into that top five, and if we can get all the pieces of this puzzle put together, I wouldn't put it past them."</p> <p>Complete SMU men's hockey season          preview: <a href="http://sports.smumn.edu/m_hockey/2006/newsletter/mhpreview.html">http://sports.smumn.edu/m_hockey/2006/newsletter/mhpreview.html</a></p>
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<b>St. Olaf College</b>		
<b>Head Coach:</b>	Sean Goldsworthy (9th season)	
<b>2005-06 Record:</b>	13-9-5 overall, 8-5-3 MIAC (3rd)	
<b>Key Returners:</b>	<p><b>John Egge</b> (Sr., F, Wisconsin Rapids, Wis.)</p> <p><b>Kyle Hilmerhausen</b> (Sr., F, Wausau, Wis.)</p> <p><b>Dylan Mueller</b> (So., F, Plymouth, Minn.)</p> <p><b>John Paulson</b> (Jr., D, Eden Prarie, Minn.)</p> <p><b>Andrew Gastineau</b> (Sr., D, Rochester, Minn.)</p> <p><b>Jeff Wilde</b> (Sr., G, Watertown, S.D.)</p>	



<b>Season Preview:</b>	<p>Tenth-year St. Olaf men's hockey head coach Sean Goldsworthy and his team, for the first time in the program since 1939-40, have a championship to defend.</p> <p>After finishing third in the regular season standings in 2005-06, the Oles caught fire in March with a pair of road wins at Saint John's and the University of St. Thomas to capture the MIAC's postseason crown and a trip the NCAA's.</p> <p>Goldsworthy knows that St. Olaf's trip to the big show was something special.</p> <p>"Winning the MIAC playoff championship gave us the opportunity to play on the national scene," said Goldsworthy, who has had teams in the MIAC playoffs each of the last three seasons. "[After] playing against national championship contenders, we know the level of execution to be successful at that level."</p> <p>The 2006-07 team, with a plethora of returnees, has a chance to own up to the 2005-06 team's legacy.</p> <p>Senior captains John Egge and Kyle Hilmershausen lead the way. Each have 66 games of experience and had 18 points last season, tying for second-best on the squad. Egge had a goal and a pair of assists in the MIAC title game and Hilmershausen's 12 assists were tops on the team.</p> <p>Dylan Mueller, who was off the dress list for the Oles' first two weekends last winter, emerged as their leading scorer by season's end. He had 11 goals, including a tally to seal the MIAC title against UST. The sophomore is one of many forwards that could excel this year.</p> <p>St. Olaf lost scorers Ted Bickel and Joel Ihrie to graduation. Juniors Mike MacMillan (37 career points), Jeff Budish (24 career points), Justin Green (14 career points), Brett Kistner (11 career points) and Andy Ockuly (10 career points) could each play a more prominent role.</p> <p>Goldsworthy thinks highly of his first year class as well, and they could contribute up front. "I've been impressed with how quickly Ben Umhoefer (Marshfield, Wis./Shattuck St.Mary's), Bryan Osmondson (Princeton, Minn.) and Matt LaBombard (Bloomington, Minn.) have responded thus far."</p> <p>All-MIAC junior John Paulson leads the defensive unit. Paulson had 13 points last year and 14 in his first season. Mitch Mudra, a three-year mainstay in the lineup is back too. Mudra has 33 career points.</p> <p>Andrew Gastineau will join the team at the completion of St. Olaf's soccer schedule. The three-sport star has 69 career games of experience.</p> <p>Defenseman Barret Simons, an All-MIAC Rookie Team honoree last season, is among a strong sophomore class that includes forwards Nick Stalock, Casey Dynan, Jason Gomez, Andrew Birkholz, Matt McDonald and defenseman Ryan Hampson. The Oles have also added first years Karl Hylle and David Adams to the defense.</p> <p>Senior goalie Jeff Wilde has proven experience and will be the go-to guy early. Wilde is 7-6-3 in 16 career starts. He has four career shutouts and had an impressive .910 save percentage and was 4-3-2 last season.</p> <p>Complete St. Olaf preview at: <a href="http://fusion.stolaf.edu/athletics//index.cfm?fuseaction=NewsDetails&amp;id=1051">http://fusion.stolaf.edu/athletics//index.cfm?fuseaction=NewsDetails&amp;id=1051</a></p>
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<b>University of St. Thomas</b>	
<b>Head Coach:</b>	Terry Skrypek (20th season)
<b>2005-06 Record:</b>	17-9-1 overall, 13-2-1 MIAC (1st)
<b>Key Returners:</b>	<p><b>Nick Harris</b> (Sr., F, Hastings, Minn.) Captain; 3-year career: 37g-46a/83 points</p> <p><b>Kevin Rollwagen</b> (Sr., F, Bloomington, Minn./Holy Angels) Captain; 3-year career: 29g-35a/64 points</p> <p><b>Andrew Edwards</b> (Sr., F, Shoreview, Minn./Mounds View) Alt. Captain; 3-year career: 3g-4a/7 points</p> <p><b>Ryan Van Bockel</b> (Sr., F, Bloomington, Minn./Jefferson) Alt. Captain; 3-year career: 12a/12 points</p> <p><b>Matt Kaiser</b> (Jr., F, Bloomington, Minn./Holy Angels) 28 points in 35 career games</p> <p><b>Trey Kettwick</b> (Sr., GK, DeWitt, Iowa) All-MIAC; 2005-06: 12-5-1, 2.76 GAA, .897 save%</p>

<b>Season Preview:</b>	<p>Terry Skrypek has to be the only hockey coach in America with the following written on his 2006 to-do list:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Replace three graduated All-Americans</li> <li>2) Replace both hips</li> </ol> <p>Don't expect the Tommies, or Skrypek, to limp through his 20th season as St. Thomas men's hockey coach, however.</p> <p>On the personal front, Skrypek's first hip replacement last May was a success. His second hip surgery in late October also went well and has the coach looking forward to December when he can rejoin his team and hopefully be pain-free.</p> <p>A void was created with the graduation loss of three All-Americans -- defenseman John Bottoms (MIAC Player of the Year, Division III runner-up for Player of the Year), and forwards Dan Krmpotich (119 career points) and Brandon Wilcox (136 career points). But a solid group of returners and some talented recruits has Skrypek excited for 2006-07.</p> <p>"Our recruiting really was a success as we really filled our needs," Skrypek said. "Losing a John Bottoms is tough because he was our best defenseman, best penalty killer, and best power-play guy. But some guys we brought in have the skills to step in and play and fill those gaps."</p> <p>Last season, UST won the conference title with a 13-2-1 record. The Toms were shaky in the conference playoffs, though. They rallied for an amazing 5-4 overtime win in the semifinals over Bethel before losing the playoff title game to St. Olaf 5-1. The Toms closed 17-9-1 but missed the NCAA playoffs after taking second in the nation one season earlier.</p> <p>Senior captains Nick Harris (83 career points) and Kevin Rollwagen (64 career points) have a chance to join UST's 100-point club. Juniors Ryan Hoehn (30 career points), Matt Kaiser (28 points in 35 games), Andy Panchenko and Nick Pernula are other proven scorers.</p> <p>At least four newcomers are pushing for playing time -- soph Tommy Knutson, a Duluth native and transfer from D-I Lake Superior State; freshman Sam Kelly, a Hill-Murray grad who played two seasons of junior hockey; Alex Coles, a Burnsville grad who played two seasons of junior hockey; and Wes Jirovec, a 2005 St. Thomas Academy grad who played one season of juniors.</p> <p>Senior alternate captains Andrew Edwards and Ryan Van Bockel and junior Garrett Gruenke lead the defensemen. Sophomores Paul Solberg and A.J. Panchenko and junior Luke Salscheider also will push for minutes.</p> <p>Senior Treye Kettwick is back at goalie. Kettwick was 12-5-1 with an .897 save percentage and 2.76 GAA in his debut season with the Tommies. Others pushing for time in the net are sophomore Jake Maida, who played in three games as a freshman; Hamline transfer Cameron Voss of St. Thomas Academy; and freshman Joe Schraeder, who played at a prep school near his Pennsylvania home.</p> <p>Complete St. Thomas preview at: <a href="http://www.stthomas.edu/tommies/shared/shownews.cfm?ArticleID=4541">http://www.stthomas.edu/tommies/shared/shownews.cfm?ArticleID=4541</a></p>
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