

# 2015-16 MIAC Men's Hockey Preview and Preseason Coaches' Poll

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## 2015-16 MIAC Men's Hockey Season Preview

BLOOMINGTON, Minn. -- As last season proved, anything can happen in men's hockey in the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (MIAC).

The 2014-15 season concluded with a pair of teams - Hamline and Saint Mary's - dueling in the MIAC Men's Hockey Playoff championship game, which was won by the Pipers. Prior to the season, Hamline were picked to finish last in the Preseason Coaches' Poll, with the Cardinals checking in at No. 7. The dramatic rise of those two programs was a great story in its own right, but it also demonstrated the parity and level of play in the only Division III conference in the "State of Hockey."

What wasn't surprising was another regular-season MIAC championship for St. Thomas, marking the fourth-straight season the Tommies have won or shared the regular-season crown. Head Coach Jeff Boeser's squad was a unanimous pick in the coaches' poll, and UST went 10-3-3 (16-6-4 overall) to edge Saint Mary's (15-10-2, 9-5-2 MIAC) by three points (34 to 31) atop the standings.

Joining the Tommies, Pipers and Cardinals in the MIAC Playoffs were Concordia (13-9-4, 8-5-3 MIAC, 28 points) and Augsburg (12-14, 9-7 MIAC, 27 points). Hamline finished fifth in the regular season with 25 points (14-11-4, 7-6-3 MIAC), and then won three-straight road games in the MIAC Playoffs to claim the postseason title and a trip to the NCAA tournament.

As usual, the five MIAC Playoff bids weren't secured until the season's final day, as two other teams couldn't have been much closer to joining the field. Both Saint John's (11-9-5, 7-7-2 MIAC) and Gustavus (8-9-8, 5-5-6 MIAC) finished in a tie for sixth place at 24 points, just one point out of the final Playoff spot. St. Olaf (6-16-3, 4-10-2 MIAC, 16 points) and Bethel (4-19-2, 2-13-1 MIAC, 7 points) rounded out the final standings a year ago.

As the puck gets set to drop on the new season, the rise of Saint Mary's and Hamline a year ago gives hope to each and every team in the MIAC. Each year the talent level seems to rise on all nine campuses, and the standings continue to get a little tighter. When the ice shavings settle in February, it won't be surprising at all to see seven, eight, or even nine teams all still in the mix for a trip to the conference postseason tournament.

## TOMMIES 'DRIVE FOR FIVE' TOPS COACHES' POLL

St. Thomas enters the 2015-16 looking to claim the conference title for the fifth-straight season, and the MIAC coaches think that's a strong possibility. The Tommies were again a unanimous pick to win the conference title with eight first-place votes and 64 points atop the 2015-16 MIAC Men's Hockey Preseason Coaches' Poll. Coaches cannot vote for their own team in the poll.

Last season's MIAC Playoff finalists occupied the next two spots, as the league's coaches expect them to build on their momentum. Saint Mary's slotted in at No. 2 with the other first-place vote and 51 points, while Hamline received 48 points to finish a close third in the rankings. Saint John's received 41 points to grab the No. 4 spot.

The battle for the fifth and final Playoff spot saw three teams separated by just one point a year ago, and coaches expect another insanely close competition in 2015-16. Augsburg and Concordia each received 33 points to tie for fifth place in the coaches poll, and Gustavus received 30 points to finish in a close seventh. St. Olaf (16) and Bethel (eight) rounded out the final two spots in the coaches' predictions.

## PLAYERS TO WATCH

St. Thomas enters its quest for a fifth-straight MIAC title ranked No. 15 in the nation by D3hockey.com. The Tommies lose star goalie Drew Fielding and All-Americans Michael Krieg and Alex Altenbernd, but also have plenty of talent coming back. Senior captains John Kritland (defenseman) and Wilie Faust (forward) and alternate captain Steve Sorenesen (defenseman) will anchor another deep, talented St. Thomas squad.

Saint Mary's has a hole to fill on the blue line with the graduation of All-MIAC defenseman Bob Marx, but the Cardinals have most of its stars back from last seasons' meteoric rise. Junior forward Martin Gruse returns as one of the league's top scorers, and fellow juniors Bob Kinne (forward) and Mike Mezzano (defenseman) are both back as well to give Saint Mary's a stellar returning nucleus.

Hamline starts the season receiving votes in the D3hockey.com poll and hopeful to defend its remarkable MIAC Playoff title. Like Saint Mary's, the team loses its anchor on defense as Joe Rubbelke graduated, but the Pipers' top-three scorers are all back for their senior season. Brandon Zurn, Charlie Adams and Kevin Novakovich combined for 89 points a year ago, and are primed for more big numbers in their encore.



Saint John's just missed out on a trip to the Playoffs a year ago and will be looking for scoring following the graduation of John Haeg and Phil Johnson, but SJU's hopes start with the return of star goalie Saxton Soley for his senior year. Forwards Kevin Becker and Andrew Commers also return to lead the Johnnie offense in 2015-16. Augsburg should have no problem finding the net in its quest to return to the MIAC Playoffs, as All-MIAC forwards Mack Ohnsted and Corbin Chapman both return. Senior defenseman Lucas Hendrickson is also back as the team tries to replace All-MIAC blue liner Zach Dick.

Concordia graduated two-time All-MIAC scoring star Andrew Deters, but the Cobbers have talent back across the board as they aim for another postseason bid as well. Three-time All-MIAC forward Jordie Bancroft is back to write the final chapter to his stellar career, and defenseman Charlie Aus and forward Garrett Hendrickson were both All-MIAC Honorable Mention picks last season. Gustavus was another team that just missed out on a trip to the postseason and will have to replace standout goalie John McLean, but a trio of sophomores - defensemen Jake Bushey and Drew Aspinwall and forward Sam Majka - are expected to take a big step forward to lead the Gusties in their second seasons.

St. Olaf also has a goalie to replace following Steve Papciak's graduation, but the Oles are set up front with a trio of talented, upperclass forwards all returning in junior Steven Sherman and seniors Nick March and Peter Lindblad. Bethel hopes to ascend up the standings in 2015-16 and has the pieces in place to move up the ranks, as All-MIAC senior wing Mitch Hughes returns to lead a nucleus that includes All-MIAC Honorable Mention defenseman Tony Larson and senior forward Travis Payne.

### CIRCLE THESE DATES

Fans don't have much longer to wait, with three huge dates circled on the 2015-16 men's hockey calendar right off the bat. The MIAC Men's Hockey Showcase will once again begin the season in its second year at the Schwan Super Rink in Blaine, Minn. The Showcase has proven to be an outstanding event that celebrates hockey in the MIAC and puts all nine teams on display in an exciting season-opening event.

The Showcase will begin Friday (Oct. 30) with three games at 6:30 p.m., 7 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., and will follow the same schedule on Saturday (Oct. 31). The event will conclude Sunday with games at 2:30 p.m., 3 p.m. and 3:30 p.m., as all nine teams will play two games that will count as nonconference contests in the standings to open the season in style. There will be live stats for all games for fans who can't make it to Blaine, and the [MIAC Men's Hockey Showcase home page](#) will be updated throughout the event with scores, stats, photos, recaps and more.

The following two weekends will include a mix of nonconference and conference games, with MIAC play beginning in full on the weekend of Nov. 20-21. Following a break in late December for finals and the holidays, nonconference games will resume in January, with conference play starting up again on Jan. 22-23, and running through the season's final weekend (Feb. 19-20). The MIAC Men's Hockey Playoffs will follow with the quarterfinal game scheduled for Thursday, Feb. 25, semifinals on Saturday, Feb. 27, and the championship set for Saturday, March 5.

### A CLOSER LOOK

The rest of the 2015-16 MIAC Men's Hockey Preview contains complete results from the 2015-15 Preseason Coaches' Poll, helpful links and a preview for each team submitted by their sports information director. The MIAC web site - [www.miacathletics.com](http://www.miacathletics.com) - will be an outstanding source for MIAC men's hockey news, schedules, scores, stats and more throughout the 2015-16 season.

Visit the [MIAC scoreboard](#) on game days to follow all the action, and download the [MIAC mobile app](#) to have all the information on-the-go. Also, connect to the conference on its [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [YouTube](#) pages for updates and interaction all season long.

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### 2015-16 MIAC Men's Hockey Preseason Coaches' Poll

Coaches voted for every team in the conference except their own team. Points were assigned for each vote (eight for first, seven for second, etc.) Teams are ranked in order of highest point total to lowest with vote totals listed and first-place votes shown in parentheses.

2015-16 MIAC Men's Hockey Preseason Coaches' Poll		
Rank	Institution	Total
1.	St. Thomas (8)	64
2.	Saint Mary's (1)	51
3.	Hamline	48
4.	Saint John's	41
T5.	Augsburg	33
T5.	Concordia	33
7.	Gustavus	30
8.	St. Olaf	16
9.	Bethel	8

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### 2015 MIAC Men's Hockey Showcase

The 2015 MIAC Men's Hockey Showcase will enjoy its second season with a new location and schedule, as the popular three-day event returns to the Schwan's Super Rink in Blaine, Minn. The Showcase will have three games each day going on simultaneously, with start times staggered by 30 minutes. The Showcase will be held Oct. 30, 31 and Nov. 1, with each of the nine MIAC teams playing two games over the course of the weekend to drop the puck on the 2015-16 season in style. The Showcase games will be counted as nonconference games in the standings, and serve as a season-opening celebration of the only Division III conference in "The State of Hockey." The [Showcase home page](#) contains full schedules, live stat links, team information and links, ticket information, directions and more, and it will be updated with results, recaps, photos and more throughout the event.

| [2015 MIAC Men's Hockey Showcase Home Page](#) |

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## 2016 MIAC Men's Hockey Playoffs

The 2016 MIAC Playoffs will feature the top five teams in the conference standings playing in a high-seed-host, single-elimination postseason tournament. The lone quarterfinal game between the No. 4 and No. 5 seeds will be played Thursday, Feb. 25, with the two semifinal games to follow on Saturday, Feb. 27. The championship game is set for the following Saturday, March 5. The winner will receive the MIAC's automatic bid to the 2016 NCAA Division III Men's Hockey Tournament.

| [MIAC Men's Hockey Playoffs Websites](#) | [2016](#) | [2015](#) |

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## MIAC Men's Hockey Links

| [Website](#) | [Standings](#) | [Schedule](#) | [Statistics](#) | [News](#) | [Recordbook](#) | [Archives](#) |

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## Team-by-Team Previews

| [AUG](#) | [BU](#) | [CON](#) | [GAC](#) | [HU](#) | [SJU](#) | [SMU](#) | [STO](#) | [UST](#) |

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### AUGSBURG | [Auggies' men's hockey home page](#) |

#### Head Coach

- Chris Brown (10th season at Augsburg, 15th overall)

#### A Year Ago

- 9-7-0 MIAC (4th place) | 12-14-0 Overall

#### In the 2014 Postseason

- MIAC playoffs: L 4-3 to Hamline in first-round game

#### Top Returners

- Mack Ohnsted (F, SR | All-MIAC in 2014-15 and 2013-14; team-high 13 goals, 12 assists, 25 points in 2014-15; t-8th in MIAC in overall points, t-5th in goals; goal or assist in 14 of 26 games in 2014-15, including 8 multiple-point games; 21 goals, 39 assists, 60 points in 76 career games)
- Corbin Chapman (F, JR | All-MIAC in 2014-15; 10 goals, team-high 15 assists, 25 points in 2014-15; t-8th in MIAC in overall points and assists, t-10th in goals; goal or assist in 14 of 26 games in 2014-15, including 9 multiple-point games; 13 goals, 23 assists, 36 points in 44 career games)
- Lucas Hendrickson (D, SR | 4 goals, 7 assists for 11 points in 2014-15, 2nd-most among Augsburg defenders; 12th in scoring among MIAC defenders in 2014-15; 6 goals, 22 assists, 28 points in 76 career games)

#### Key Losses

- Ben McClellan (F | All-MIAC honorable mention in 2014-15, All-MIAC in 2012-13; 8 goals, 12 assists, 20 points in 2014-15; goal or assist in 13 of 22 games in 2014-15, including 6 multiple-point games; 41 goals, 37 assists, 78 points in 96 career games)
- Zach Dick (D | All-MIAC in 2014-15; 5 goals, 9 assists, 14 points in 2014-15, leader among Augsburg defenders; t-5th among MIAC defenders in points, t-2nd among MIAC defenders in goals; goal or assist in 11 of 26 games in 2014-15, including 3 multiple-point games; 10 goals, 22 assists, 32 points in 90 career games)
- Daniel Hildebrandt (D | All-MIAC Sportsmanship Team in 2014-15; 6 assists in 23 games played in 2014-15; 16 assists in 88 career games)

#### By the Numbers

- 100: Wins as Augsburg's head coach for Chris Brown, entering his 10th season at Augsburg and 15th season as a collegiate head coach in 2015-16. Brown is 100-113-18 in his Augsburg career, 169-169-26 overall.
- 3.00: Goals per-game scored by Augsburg in 2014-15, the fourth-best total among MIAC teams in overall statistics.
- 4: Game-winning goals by Mack Ohnsted in 2014-15, tied with Hamline's Charlie Adams and Saint Mary's Martin Gruse for the most among MIAC players.

#### Did You Know?

- Augsburg's men's hockey team has earned the athletic department's top men's team grade-point average at the Auggie Awards ceremony

each of the last six seasons.

### Off the Ice

- Nine Augsburg men's hockey players earned Academic All-MIAC honors in 2014-15.



## BETHEL | [Royals' men's hockey home page](#) |

### Head coach

- Charlie Burggraf (6th season)

### A Year Ago

- 2-13-1 MIAC (9th place) | 4-19-2 Overall

### Top Returners

- Mitch Hughes (W, Sr. | 2014-15 MIAC All-Conference, 10G, 14A, 24 Pts.)
- Travis Payne (F, Sr. | 6 G, 11 A, 17 Pts)
- Tony Larson (D, Sr. | Two-time MIAC All-Conference Honorable Mention)

### Key Losses

- Brock Raffaele (F | 8G, 14A, 22 Pts.)

### By the Numbers

- 23: Senior forward Mitch Hughes has amassed 23 points or more in two of his first three seasons. Hughes, who led the league in scoring during his rookie campaign, needs 22 points this year to break Bethel's Top 25 point scorers all-time.
- 3: The Royals went 3-3-2 when scoring the first goal of the game last year. Among those three victories was a pair of wins over Gustavus Adolphus and a thrilling 2-0 shutout versus Saint John's.
- 15: Bethel scored 15 power play goals throughout the 2014-15 season, which ranked No. 4 conference-wide. The Royals had 95 opportunities, which was third best among all MIAC opponents.

### Did You Know?

- Bethel's men's hockey team represents 12 different states across the country. Included on this year's roster are players from California, Connecticut, Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia, Washington, and Wisconsin.

### Off the Ice

- Seven players on the Bethel University squad were recognized to the MIAC Academic All-Conference team last year. To receive this honor student-athletes must maintain a 3.5 GPA and compete in over 50 percent of the team's games.



## CONCORDIA | [Cobbers' men's hockey home page](#) |

### Head coach

- Chris Howe (8th season)

### A Year Ago

- 8-5-3 MIAC (3rd place) | 13-9-4 Overall

### In the 2014 Postseason

- Lost to St. Mary's 4-3 in 2OT in MIAC semifinals

### Top Returners

- Jordie Bancroft (F, Sr. | Three-time All-MIAC; led the team in goals scored in 2015 (15))
- Charlie Aus (D, Sr. | 2015 All-MIAC Honorable Mention; tied for 5th in the MIAC in defensemen scoring)
- Garrett Hendrickson (F, Jr. | 2015 All-MIAC Honorable Mention; tied for the team lead in assists)

### Key Losses

- Andrew Deters (F | Two-time All-MIAC; led the team in scoring in 2015; tied for the MIAC lead in game-winning goals)
- Rylan Henley (D | 2015 All-MIAC Honorable Mention; tied for the team lead in assists)

### By the Numbers

- 1: The Cobbers became the first team from the west to win the prestigious PrimeLink Shootout Tournament hosted by Norwich.
- 3: Concordia has made the MIAC playoffs in three straight seasons and four of the past five years
- 17: Concordia returns 17 letter-winners from last year's third-place team

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## GUSTAVUS | [Gusties' men's hockey home page](#) |

### Head coach

- Brett Petersen (16th season)

**A Year Ago**

- 5-5-6 MIAC (7th place) | 8-9-8 Overall

**Top Returners**

- Jake Bushey (Defenseman, So. | 2014 MIAC All-Rookie Team ... posted five goals and nine assists in 23 games last season ... .111 shot percentage ... three power play goals)
- Drew Aspinwall (Defenseman, So. | posted two goals and six assists in 25 games last season ... .042 shot percentage ... one power play goal ... one short handed goal)
- Sam Majka (Forward, So. | posted three goals and three assists in 22 games last season ... .048 shot percentage ...

two power play goals ... one game winning goal)

**Key Losses**

- John McLean (Goalie | 2014-15 All-Conference Honorable Mention ... played and started 13 games last season ... 2.02 goals against average ... .929 save percentage ... 5-5-3 record)
- Blake Schammel (Forward | posted eight goals and six assists in 24 games last season ... .145 shot percentage ... four power play goals)
- Schyler Adams (Forward | posted four goals and five assists in 18 games last season ... .138 shot percentage ... +2 plus-minus ... one game winning goal)

**By the Numbers**

- 8: The number of games last year that ended in a tie, which broke the single season NCAA Division III tie record of seven, held by three different schools.
- 5: The number of wins in the MIAC last season, which are the fewest since Head Coach Brett Petersen's first season at the helm in 2000-01.

**Did You Know?**

- The Gustavus men's hockey team is embarking on its 74th season in 2015-16. One of the storied programs in collegiate hockey, Gustavus has compiled an all-time record of 857-627-76 overall and 569-429-48 in the MIAC. The Gusties have won 14 MIAC Championships and earned a place in the NCAA Division III Tournament six times, which includes a runner-up finish in 2009.

**HAMLIN** | [Pipers' men's hockey home page](#) |**Head coach**

- Cory Laylin (2nd season)

**A Year Ago**

- 7-6-3 MIAC (5th place) | 14-11-4 Overall

**In the 2014 Postseason**

- MIAC postseason results: Defeated Augsburg (4-3), St. Thomas (6-3) and St. Mary's (4-2) to win the MIAC playoffs
- NCAA postseason results: Lost at UW-Stevens Point, 4-2, in quarterfinals

**Top Returners**

- Brandon Zurn (F, Sr., 16g, 19 a, 35 pts, MIAC All-Conf., 2nd in points & assists)
- Charlie Adams (F, Sr., 19 g, 15 a, 34 pts., West All-American, MIAC All Conf., tied for league lead in goals)
- Kevin Novakovich (F, Sr., 12 g 8 a, 20 pts. Three year regular)

**Key Losses**

- Joe Rubbelke (D, 3 g 20 a, led all MIAC defensemen in scoring, 3-year All-MIAC pick)

**By the Numbers**

- 5: new faces on 2015-16 team
- 12: improvement in win total from the year before (highest improvement of any D-III team)
- 20: returning players from 2014-15 team

**Did You Know?**

- Last year's team started the season rated 79th among all USCHO teams. They finished the year in 15th place.

**Off the Ice**

- Hamline had three players (John Gaughan, Sam Leslie, Joe Rubbelke – all seniors) on the MIAC Academic All-Conference Winter 2014-15 team.

**SAINT JOHN'S** | [Johnnies' men's hockey home page](#) |**Head coach**

- Doug Schueller (Eighth season)

**A Year Ago**

- 7-7-2 MIAC (Sixth place) | 11-9-5 Overall



### Top Returners

- Kevin Becker (F, Jr. | Played all 25 games for SJU...tied for second on the team with seven goals and tied for third with 13 points...tied for the team-lead with two game-winning goals...registered only one penalty)
- Andrew Commers (F, Sr. | 2015-16 SJU team captain...played all 25 games for SJU...tallied eight points (3g/5a)...scored the game-winning goal in the 4-2 victory over Saint Mary's Nov. 22)
- Saxton Soley (G, Sr. | Posted a 9-7-5 record and finished second in the MIAC in save percentage (.930) and third in GAA (2.11) overall last season...posted three shutouts, including two 0-0 results against nationally-ranked St. Thomas (Oct. 31) and St. Norbert (Jan. 8)...the other shutout was of Hamline, the eventual MIAC Playoff champion, Feb. 7...2013 MIAC Co-Player of the Year and an All-American...begins his senior season 13 wins shy of the school record of 51)

### Key Losses

- Wally Cossette (D | Tallied 13 points (2g/11a) in 22 games...second on the team in assists...tied for fifth among MIAC defensemen with seven points (1g/6a) in conference play...had a team-leading seven points (2g/5a) on the power play...ended his career with 47 points (9g/38a) in 97 games, which is good for 14th all-time among SJU defensemen)
- John Haeg (F | Four-time All-MIAC first-team selection...led SJU in goals and points all four seasons...became the 21<sup>st</sup> Johnnie to reach 100 career points with 101, 34g/67a)
- Phil Johnson (F | Played all 25 games...finished second on the team with 14 points (6g/8a)...led the team with four power-play goals...collected 64 points (29g/35a) in 99 career games...a two-time All-MIAC first-team selection)

### By the Numbers

- 1: The Johnnies missed the MIAC playoffs by one point in 2014-15. SJU also suffered four one-goal conference losses last season, including two in overtime.
- 6: The Johnnies scored a season-high six goals three times, but also gave up six goals twice, both in 6-5 conference losses to MIAC playoff teams (vs. Augsburg in overtime and vs. Hamline).
- 0-0: SJU entered the 2014-15 season with no scoreless ties recorded in its 78-season history, but ended up having two in a period of 69 days against nationally-ranked opponents (then-No. 5 St. Thomas and then-No. 2 St. Norbert).

### Did You Know?

SJU is set to face three teams that have reached the NCAA Division III national championship within the last three years: UW-Eau Claire (Nov. 13), UW-Stevens Point (Nov. 14) and Oswego State of New York (Nov. 28). UW-Eau Claire won the 2013 national title, while UW-Stevens Point has lost each of the last two championship games and Oswego State finished runner-up in 2012 and 2013 after winning the title in 2007.

### Off the Ice

- The Johnnies have had three or more Academic All-MIAC honorees in nine of the last 10 seasons.

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## SAINT MARY'S | [Cardinals' men's hockey home page](#) |



### Head coach

- Bill Moore (9<sup>th</sup> season)

### A Year Ago

- 9-5-2 MIAC (2nd) | 15-10-2 Overall

### In The 2014 Postseason

- MIAC Playoffs: vs. Concordia-W, 3-2 (2 OTs); vs. Hamline-L, 4-2

### Top Returners

- Martin Gruse (5-10, 195, Jr., For. | 27 GP, 19 G, 19 A, 38 Pts.; CCM/AHCA Second-Team All-American, First-Team All-MIAC ... Led all MIAC scorers in goals and points)
- Bob Kinne (5-11, 175, Jr., For. | 17 GP, 9 G, 13 A, 22 Pts.; First-Team All-MIAC ... Recorded at least one point in 12 of 17 games—including last nine)
- Mike Mezzano (5-10, 175, Jr., Def. | 26 GP, 4 G, 18 A, 22 Pts. | First-Team All-MIAC ... MIAC Elite 22 winner ... Led all MIAC defensemen in goals and points in conference play)

### Key Losses

- Bob Marx (27 GP, 5 G, 13 A, 18 Pts. | First-Team All-MIAC ... Appeared in 99 career games—including the last 85 in a row)
- Jed McGlasson (27 GP, 10 G, 10 A, 20 Pts. | Honorable-mention All-MIAC ... Posted career highs in goals, assists and points in 2014-15)
- Mike Wolter (19 GP, 0 G, 5 A, 5 Pts.)

### By The Numbers

- 15: Saint Mary's closed out the 2014-15 season with 15 wins (going 15-10-2)—the Cardinals' most wins since going 15-11-1 during the 1996-97 campaign.
- 19/38: Martin Gruse's (Trenton, Mich.) 19 goals—including four-game winners—are the most by a Cardinal since the 2002-03 season, when Al Schumacher scored 19, while his 38 points are the most since Frank Savino, Nate DeMars, and Randy Gallatin finished with 62, 61, and 40 points, respectively, during the 1996-97 season.
- 20: Saint Mary's—which dropped a heartbreaking 4-2 decision to Hamline in the conference tournament title game a year ago—had not appeared in the MIAC Playoff championship game since the 1994-95 season, when the Cardinals captured their last conference tournament title by beating St. Thomas 5-4 and 8-6.

### Did You Know?

- The Cardinals played seven overtime games last season—including their first double-overtime game in the last two decades. Saint Mary's went to a shootout vs. both St. Thomas and Saint John's, while beating Concordia (twice) and Hamline, and dropping 2-1 and 3-2 OT decisions to Gustavus and nationally ranked UW-Stevens Point, respectively.

### Off The Ice

- The Cardinals have two circle-the-date events on this year's schedule. Saint Mary's will honor all veterans with Veterans Appreciation Night on Jan. 29 against Augsburg, and the Cardinals' Nov. 21 contest against St. Olaf will include the Sixth Annual Teddy Bear Toss — after the first Saint Mary's goal in the first period, or at the end of the first period if SMU fails to score — fans will have an opportunity to throw their teddy bear and/or stuffed animal(s) onto the ice. They will then be collected and go directly to benefit children in the local Winona areas for the Christmas Holiday.



### ST. OLAF | [Oles' men's hockey home page](#) |

#### Head coach

- Sean Goldsworthy (19th season)

#### A Year Ago

- 4-10-2 MIAC (8th place) | 6-16-3 Overall

### Top Returners

- Steven Sherman (F, Jr. | Led team with 16 points on six goals, 10 assists in 2014-15... 34 career points.)
- Nick Marsh (F, Sr. | Had career-best 15 points last winter on six goals, nine assists.)
- Peter Lindblad (F, Sr. | Six goals, five assists in 2014-15.)

### Key Losses

- Steve Papciak (G | Played in 23 of Oles' 25 games last season... .913 save pct... 22 career wins.)
- Matt Guerts (D | Had career-best six goals and 15 points last season.)
- Brian Hickey (F | 96 career games... Had five goals in 2014-15.)



### ST. THOMAS | [Tommies' men's hockey home page](#) |

#### Head coach

- Jeff Boeser (6th season)

#### A Year Ago

- 10-3-3 MIAC (MIAC Champions) | 16-6-4 Overall

### In the 2014 Postseason

- MIAC postseason results L, 3-6 to Hamline in semifinals

### Top Returners

- John Kirtland (D, SR | Captain, 75 career games, 1g-5a)
- Willie Faust (F, SR | Captain, HM All-MIAC, 9g-8a last season)
- Steve Sorensen (D, SR| Alternate Captain, HM All-MIAC, 5g-23a in 66 games)

### Key Losses

- Drew Fielding (GK | 2X All-America, Academic All-America, D-III Natl' Player of Year; Career: 52-22-8, 17 shutouts, 1.66 GAA, 933 save%)
- Michael Krieg (D | All-America, Career: 14g-31a in 98 games)
- Alex Altenbernd (F | All-America, Career: 38g-45a in 106 games)

### By the Numbers

- 11-0: UST record in games when senior Jordan Lovick scores a goal on his career
- 4: Consecutive MIAC championships won by the Tommies
- 24: Players on UST's 26-player roster who played Juniors hockey after high school

### Did You Know?

- Senior forward Nick Nielsen has played in 76 games and has recorded 18 goals and 30 assists. The Tommies are 16-2-1 in games on his career when he scores a goal. He's also a top player for the nationally-ranked Tommie men's golf team. Nielsen competed in the May 2015 NCAA Championships and helped UST place 12th. In October 2015, he helped St. Thomas beat 13 ranked teams and win the 18-team Golfweek Preview tournament in Destin, Fla. UST finished the fall ranked No. 2 in Division III computer rankings by Golfstat.

### Off the Ice

- St. Thomas has a 3.25 team grade-point average, and had five players on last year's Academic All-MIAC team led by Academic All-America Drew Fielding

