

2007 MIAC MEN'S SWIMMING & DIVING CHAMPIONSHIP PREVIEW

Gustavus, St. Olaf, Saint John's, and Carleton will look to maintain their consistent placements in the top half of the MIAC standings. Five-time reigning MIAC Champion Gustavus enters the 2007 meet with the goal of capturing their sixth straight. The Gustavus line-up features All-Americans Ben Hanson, Scott Hagemeyer, Brian Amundson, Matt Stewart, and Tyler Wakefield. But it will not be easy for the Gusties in 2007 as St. Olaf has many talented individuals and should contend for the title. The Oles return the top diver in the MIAC in Christian Lorentzen along with numerous swimmers who hold top times in 2007. Last season's 100-yard backstroke champion Casey Larson will lead the Saint John's team this year. While Carleton features some strong senior swimmers and sophomore All-American Ted Marschall.

Hamline, St. Thomas, Macalester, and Saint Mary's will look to break into the upper half of the conference in 2007. Hamline returns sophomore Jonathan Tapia-Rodriguez an All-Conference performer in the 200-yard butterfly a season ago. St. Thomas is led by junior T.J. Hardy, who placed fifth in the 50 and 100 Freestyles at the 2006 Championship Meet. Freshman freestyler Mitch Stepleton will be the best hope of a conference finalist for Macalester. Saint Mary's is also very young and will be led by freshmen Curtis Kempton and Jon Fox.

The 2007 MIAC Men's Swimming & Diving Championship will be held this weekend, February 15-17, at the University of Minnesota Aquatic Center. Running in conjunction with the MIAC Women's Championship, the meet will feature preliminary events in the morning sessions and final contests during the evening sessions.

MIAC Swimming and Diving Online Previews:

Carleton College		
Head Coach:	Andy Clark (14th year)	
2006 Results:	Fourth place at MIAC Championships	
Athletes to Watch:	David Friedlander-Holm (Sr., St. Paul, Minn./Central) Ted Marschall (So., Burnsville, Minn.) Will Kruesi (Sr., Park Ridge, Ill./Maine Township South) Jared Plotz (So., Hutchinson, Minn.) John Knapp (So., Sturgeon Bay, Wis.)	
Preview:	Carleton enters the 2007 MIAC Championships having posted 11 successive top-four finishes at the conference meet, a trend the Knights hope will continue this season. Sophomore sensation Ted Marschall, the defending MIAC champion and meet-record holder in both the 200- and 400-yard individual medley events will dominate the Knight headlines. An All-America performer in the 400 IM last season, he is a threat to win all three events he enters and will likely be a central figure on almost all of Carleton's relays. A pair of seniors, David Friedlander-Holm and Will Kruesi, and diver John Knapp figure to give Carleton big points in their respective events. Knapp, an All-MIAC performer on both the one- and three-meter boards last season, has posted NCAA qualifying scores on both boards this season and should be battling for a top-three finish in both events to repeat as an all-conference diver. He'll need some outstanding scores during the meet if he wants to be selected for the NCAA Championships next month in Houston. Team co-captains Friedlander-Holm and Kruesi give the Knights conference championships experience. Friedlander-Holm is a six-time all-conference performer and has been one of the team's top-two point scorers each of his first three seasons. Kruesi, who like Friedlander-Holm scored in all three of his individual events at last year's conference championship meet, is a three-time All-MIAC honoree. That duo, along with Marschall and Jared Plotz, combined to finish third in the 800-yard freestyle relay last year, earning all-conference honors.	

Gustavus Adolphus College		
Head Coach:	Jon Carlson (17th year)	
2006 Results:	First place at MIAC Championships	
Ben Hanson (1r Minnetonka Minn.)		

Athletes to Watch:	Ben Hanson (Sr., Willmar, Minn.) Scott Hagemeyer (Sr., Willmar, Minn.) Brian Amundson (Sr., Blaine, Minn.) Matt Stewart (So., Burnsville, Minn.) Connor Ziegler (Jr., Sauk Rapids, Minn.) Tyler Wakefield (So., Hutchinson, Minn.)
Preview:	The Gusties will be shooting for their sixth consecutive conference title and will likely lock up in a tight battle with St. Olaf to continue the streak. Coach Jon Carlson's squad posted a MIAC dual meet record of 2-1 with the lone loss to the Oles early in the season. Gustavus features a deep and talented lineup that features All-Americans Ben Hanson, Scott Hagemeyer, Brian Amundson, Matt Stewart, and Tyler Wakefield. Hagemeyer will wrap up an outstanding career that has included seven individual event titles (sprints and backstroke) and six relay titles. Hanson has won six event titles (middle and long distance) in his freshman and sophomore seasons and he has been the MIAC Swimmer of the Year for the past two years. Stewart has arguably been the Gusties best swimmer this year competing in virtually every event and shattering multiple school and pool records. The Gusties will also bring a contingent of strong relay teams led by the 200 free relay that has posted the fifth fastest time in Division III this season.

Hamline University		
Head Coach:	Paul Waas, Jr. (1st year)	
2006 Results:	Fifth place at MIAC Championships	
Athletes to Watch:	Jonathan Tapia-Rodriguez (So., Quito, Ecuador/Nacel International School) Jake Burgess (So., Oakdale, Minn./North St. Paul) Jake Kruger (Sr., Cascade, Wis./Plymouth)	
Preview:	The Hamline men’s swimming and diving team will look to improve on their fifth place finish at last season’s MIAC Championships. The Pipers will lean on sophomores Jonathan Tapia-Rodriguez (Quito, Ecuador) and Jake Burgess (Oakdale, Minn.) and senior Jake Kruger (Cascade, Wis.). Tapia Rodriguez was an all-conference performer in the 200-yard butterfly a season ago, placing second with a time of 1:54.22. He also was sixth in the 100-yard butterfly at the 2006 MIAC Championships. Heading into the year’s championships, Tapia-Rodriguez has posted top four times in three separate events (100-yard butterfly, 200-yard butterfly, and 200-yard individual medley). Burgess scored points for the Pipers in three different events last year, taking sixth in the 100-yard backstroke in a time of 53.22 and eighth in the 200-yard freestyle with a time of 1:46.95. He also was 16th in the 50-yard freestyle. He enters the championships with the eighth fastest time in the 100-yard butterfly (53.85). Kruger reached the finals of both the 1 and 3-meter dives a season ago. He placed fourth in the 1-meter dive with a score of 209.55. He followed that with a fifth place finish in the 3-meter dive. His score of 305.2 in the 1-meter dive is the third-best score in the conference this season.	

Macalester College		
Head Coach:	Bob Pearson (18th year)	
2006 Results:	Seventh place at MIAC Championships	
Athletes to Watch:	Mitch Stepleton (Fr., Boulder, Colo. / Fairview) Ramiro Nandez-Acosta (Jr., Montevideo, Uruguay)	

Preview:	Macalester placed seventh at last year's MIAC championships and after graduating its top swimmer Sjon Swanson, is not expected to challenge for a high conference finish. Freestyler Mitch Stepleton (Fr., Boulder, Colo. / Fairview) has been the team's top point-producer this winter and is the team's most likely finalist for the upcoming meet. Macalester is also looking to receive team points from Ramiro Nandez-Acosta (Jr.,Montevideo, Uruguay), who was 11th last year in the 400 IM and made the consolation finals of the 500 free. Jeremy Glover (So., Eureka, Mo.) could pick up some points for the Scots in the diving event. Seth McIntire (So., Seattle, Wash. / Garifield) leads the Scots in the butterfly and David Wright (Sr., Coshocton, Ohio) leads the way in the breaststroke events.
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Saint John's University		
Head Coach:	Bill Saxton (9th year)	
2006 Results:	Third place at MIAC Championships	
Athletes to Watch:	Casey Larson (Sr., Burnsville, Minn.) Joey Chapman (Sr., Stillwater, Minn.) Sam Christianson (Sr., West Fargo, N.D.) Josh Swenson (Jr., Thief River Falls, Minn.) Pat Stanaway (Jr., Zimmerman, Minn.) John Turtle (Sr., Littleton, Colo.)	
Preview:	Following a third place finish at the MIAC Swimming and Diving Championships last year, the Saint John's University swimming and diving team looks to showcase another strong performance at the University of Minnesota Aquatic Center this February. Senior Casey Larson will look to defend his MIAC title in the 100-yard backstroke, while last year's second-place 400-yard freestyle team of Larson, Joey Chapman, Sam Christianson and Kerry O'Neill remains partially intact. Junior Pat Stanaway has since replaced O'Neill, who graduated last year, and the relay team currently holds the third-fastest time in the MIAC. The 200-yard medley relay team of Larson, senior John Turtle, junior Josh Swenson and Christianson also had a strong showing last year for the Johnnies by finishing third overall. This year, the squad has switched Christianson with Chapman and currently has the fourth-best time in the MIAC. Christianson (50 and 100 free), Chapman (200 free), Swenson (100 and 200 fly), Stanaway (200 free and 200 fly) and Torri Ahlberg (400 individual medley) will all look to build off of their respective finishes at the MIAC Championships last year.	

Saint Mary's University		
Head Coach:	Eric Lindquist (8th year)	
2006 Results:	Eighth place at MIAC Championships	
Athletes to Watch:	Brian Joyce (Sr., Chicago, Ill.) David Ballard (Fr., Ramsey, Minn.) Curtis Kempton (Fr., Owatonna, Minn.) Jon Fox (Fr., Winona, Minn.)	

Preview:	The Saint Mary's University swimming and diving programs have enjoyed a banner season, and coach Eric Lindquist is hoping the regular season was just a sign of good things to come for the Cardinals at the MIAC Championships. "We've been training very hard all season, and it appears we are hitting our peak at just the right time," said Lindquist. "We had a number of great performances this season and, hopefully, that will carry over to the MIAC." Freshmen Curtis Kempton (Owatonna, Minn.) and Jon Fox (Winona, Minn.) have turned a few heads during their first collegiate campaign. Kempton has been dominant in the two diving competitions, while Fox has been a force in the breaststroke events. "I like where we are at," said Lindquist. "We're excited to see where we stack up against the rest of the conference."
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St. Olaf College		
Head Coach:	Dave and Bob Hauck (18th year)	
2006 Results:	Second place at MIAC Championships	
Athletes to Watch:	Nelson Westby (So, Salem, Ore.) Jake Koch (So., Wausau, Wis./East) Tom Kukla (Sr, Dubuque, Iowa) Ben Wareham (Sr., St. Paul, Minn./Highland Park) Christian Lorentzen (Jr, Phoenix, Ariz.) Joe Anderson (Sr., Madison Wis./West)	
Preview:	The St. Olaf men's swimming and diving team will lean on a talented core in search of its 24th MIAC title and first since 2001. The Oles have been second each of the past five championships. Nelson Westby (So, Salem, Ore.) has the league's top times in the 100 Breaststroke (57.24), 100 Butterfly (49.92) and 200 IM (1:51.02) - each by more than a second. Westby, who won the 100 Butterfly at last year's MIAC's, swims on all of St. Olaf's relays, three of which own top times. Jake Koch (So., Wausau, Wis./East) has the MIAC's top times in the 50 (21.14) and 100 Free (46.25). Tom Kukla (Sr, Dubuque, Iowa) has the league's best Backstroke marks - 51.75 in the 100 and 1:51.50 in the 200, while teammate Adam Meyer (So., Neenah, Wis.) has the second-best in each race. Breaststroke specialist Ben Wareham (Sr., St. Paul, Minn./Highland Park) will compete with Westby for the 100 and 200 crowns. Senior Joe Anderson (Sr. Madison, Wis.) will swim for the top spot in the distance Freestyle races and the 400 IM. Christian Lorentzen, the MIAC's defending champion in both diving events, has the conference's top scores on both boards.	

University of St. Thomas		
Head Coach:	Tom Hodgson (28th year)	
2006 Results:	Sixth place at MIAC Championships	
Athletes to Watch:	T.J. Hardy (Jr., Chaska, Minn.) Mitchell Johnson (Jr., Albert Lea, Minn.) Tim Mullee (Jr., Madison, Wis./Memorial) Kevin Mullee (Jr., Madison, Wis./Memorial) Matt Des Marais (Sr., Brainerd, Minn.)	

Preview:	Coming off a sixth-place team finish last February, St. Thomas is looking to move up in the 2007 MIAC Men's Swimming & Diving Championships. The Tommie men will likely be battling Hamline and Macalester for fifth place. The Toms are led by junior T.J. Hardy, who placed fifth in the 50 and 100 freestyles and ninth in the 200 backstroke at the 2006 championship meet. at the 2005 MIAC meet, Hardy also took sixth in the 50 free and 11th in the 100 back. Junior Kevin Mullee has placed eighth and seventh in the last two seasons in the 100 fly finals. Junior Matt Des Marais placed ninth last season in the 1,650 free. Tom McCulloch is seeded eighth in three-meter diving. The Toms will try to break a two-year-old school record in the 200 free relay (1:27.28) with Hardy, Mitchell Johnson and Kevin and Tim Mullee. The Toms' best relay scoring chance may come in the 400 free relay, where just .14 of a second separates third-seed St. John's and No. 4-seed UST
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