

2013-14 MIAC Men's Swimming and Diving Preview

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2013 MIAC MEN'S SWIMMING AND DIVING CONFERENCE PREVIEW

ST. PAUL, Minn. -- For the second-straight year, the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (MIAC) men's swimming and diving championship was decided by an extremely narrow margin. With the young 2013-14 season under way, St. Olaf and St. Thomas are set to duel at the top once again, with a number of other teams trying to join the face for the title.

Last season, the Oles held off the Tommies in memorable fashion, 787-748, to capture the 2013 MIAC championship. That fight to the finish came a year after St. Thomas edged St. Olaf in the final relay of the championship meet to earn the title by an even slimmer margin. This season, both teams appear to be the front-runners for the conference crown yet again.

The race for third place a year ago was just as entertaining, as Carleton edged Gustavus by just two points - 528-526 - with Saint John's scoring 438 to round out the top five. Hamline (138 points), Macalester (134 points) and Saint Mary's (96 points) were also closely grouped to finish out the final standings.

Last season's title was St. Olaf's fourth in the past seven years and 28th title overall, and the Oles will try to continue the dynasty in 2013-14. However, in the team's recent run of success, St. Olaf hasn't won back-to-back titles, claiming the championship every other year, so a repeat win in 2014 would be a new accomplishment for this current crop of Ole stars.

However, St. Thomas returns a talented team yet again and will try to interrupt a string of St. Olaf titles, as the Tommies did in 2012 when they captured the title in dramatic fashion. Annual contenders Carleton, Gustavus and Saint John's also have plenty of talent on this year's roster to join the championship conversation. Hamline embarks on its first season under a new coach, and Macalester and Saint Mary's also have high hopes to ascend the standings, which should make 2013-14 another thrilling year in the pool around the MIAC.

WHAT'S NEW?

An extremely veteran group of head coaches welcomes one new face to the conference this season, as Ryan Hawke takes over head coaching duties at Hamline. Hawke comes to the Pipers after spending the last three seasons as the head coach at UW-River Falls. The UWRF alum replaces Frank Vaccaro, who is now the Aquatic Manager at the University of Notre Dame.

The rest of the faces on the coaching landscape are plenty familiar with an astonishing number of years on the pool deck. St. Olaf's Dave Hauck is entering his milestone 40th season leading the Oles, along with his son Bob who is in his 24th season. St. Thomas' Tom Hodgson is next in his 35th season, and Gustavus' Jon Carlson, Carleton's Andy Clark, Saint John's Bill Saxton and Saint Mary's Eric Lindquist have all been at their posts for at least 15 seasons. Macalester's Beth Whittle is starting her fourth season leading the Scots.

WHO'S BACK?

The Oles could finally be in line to win back-to-back MIAC titles thanks to a star-studded lineup back in Northfield. All-American junior Michael Gratz who won the MIAC title in the 200-yard individual medley leads, along with seniors Colby Kubat (MIAC meet record in 100-yard breaststroke, defending 200-breast champ), Spencer Scarth (MIAC 400-IM champ). Junior Tanner Roe is the MIAC meet record holder in the 200-yard freestyle and the defending champ in the 500 free, and Billy Brebrick made quite a splash as a freshman setting a conference record in the 200-yard butterfly and a MIAC meet record in the 100-fly.

St. Thomas' optimism starts on the diving board, where 2013 MIAC Diver-of-the-Year Nick Johnson returns after winning the conference title on both the 1- and 3-meter boards a year ago. Senior sprinter Ben Henrickson has finished second in the 50-yard freestyle in each of the past two years and will look to move into first this season, and Michael Lanz is back for his sophomore season after reaching the NCAA championships in his collegiate debut a year ago.

Carleton has the tough task of replacing 2013 MIAC Swimmer-of-the-Year Erik Klontz and fellow star Mamoru Kanazawa, who both graduated, but the Knights have returning talent to ease the transition. Seniors Benito Ramierz has earned All-MIAC honors in each of his first three season, while junior Evan Harris earned All-Conference accolades in a pair of events a year ago. Sophomore George McAneny will also be counted on after helping the Carleton 200-freestyle relay team earn Honorable Mention All-American honors in 2013.

Gustavus welcomes back a lot of talented underclassmen to bolster its 2013-14 expectations. The Gusties will be led by junior Zac Solis, who earned a pair of second-place MIAC finishes a year ago. Sophomore Donte Colucci also earned a pair of All-MIAC honors as a freshman, and another Gustavus sophomore - diver Bennet Woltjer - was third on the one-meter board at the MIAC meet a year ago.



Saint John's said goodbye to a pair of talented swimmers in Logan Arnold and Preston Marsh, but the Johnnies also have a good, young nucleus back. Nolan Bauer had three top-10 finishes at the MIAC meet in his conference debut last year, and junior Joe Duxbury helped two Johnnie relay teams set school records. Sophomore Braden McKormick had two top-six MIAC finishes a year ago, and freshman Jose Alvarez recently earned the first MIAC Athlete-of-the-Week honor of the young season.

Hawke's first Hamline team will be led by distance swimmers Zach Lameyer and Tyler Stanchfield, as well as backstroke/freestyler Glenn Dworsky-Rye. Macalester sophomore Ben Kromash was fifth in the mile in his first MIAC meet last season, and he'll join seniors Nathan Schachtman and Clark Jacobson as the Scots' top swimmers. Saint Mary's will also be led by a talented sophomore, as P.J. Helleir had the team's top times in the freestyle events in his collegiate debut and could be ready for a breakout season.

CIRCLE THESE DATES

A few of the MIAC teams began competition in late October, with the rest of the league joining in this month. A good MIAC Championship preview will take place at the same site as the conference meet - the University of Minnesota Aquatic Center - when Carleton, Gustavus, Hamline, Saint John's and St. Thomas all compete in the Jean Freeman Invitational on Dec. 6.

There are a couple chances to catch multiple MIAC teams in action in January as well, starting on Jan. 25. Hamline, Saint John's and Saint Mary's will all travel to St. Paul that day to compete in the St. Catherine Invitational. Then, on Jan. 31., Carleton, Saint Mary's, St. Olaf and St. Thomas will all square off in the MIAC Invitational, also in St. Paul, as a good preview of the upcoming MIAC Championships.

The conference title will be decided over three action-packed days in mid February, as the 2014 MIAC Swimming and Diving Championships are set to take place on Feb. 13, 14 and 15 at the U of M's Aquatic Center in Minneapolis. There will be two sessions each day - preliminary races in the morning and championship heats in the evening - starting at 10:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. The MIAC Swimming and Diving Championships are always one of the conference's most popular events, and the 2014 edition should be another exciting weekend in the pool and on the diving board.

A CLOSER LOOK

The rest of the 2013 MIAC Men's Swimming and Diving Preview contains MIAC Championship details, helpful links and a preview for each team submitted by their sports information director. The new MIAC web site - www.miacathletics.com - will be an outstanding source for MIAC men's cross country news, schedules, results, stats and more throughout the 2013-14 season.

This year, the [MIAC scoreboard](#) will include men's swimming and diving events, with links to results to see how MIAC teams fared in each meet throughout the season. Also, download the [MIAC mobile app](#) to have all the information with you anywhere you travel. Also, connect to the conference on its [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [YouTube](#) pages for updates and interaction all season long.

2014 MIAC SWIMMING AND DIVING CHAMPIONSHIPS

The 2014 MIAC Swimming and Diving Championships will take place Feb. 13-15, 2014, at the University of Minnesota Aquatic Center in Minneapolis, Minn. This year's host schools are Gustavus Adolphus College and Hamline University. There will be two sessions each day - a preliminary session each morning at 10:30 a.m., and the finals that evening at 6:30 p.m. The MIAC will provide live results online as well as live video web casts of all six sessions thanks to a partnership with Webcast America. Complete information can be found online at the event's home page.

| [2014 MIAC Swimming and Diving Championships Page](#) |

MIAC MEN'S SWIMMING AND DIVING LINKS

| [MIAC Men's Swimming and Diving Page](#) | [Schedule](#) | [Recordbook](#) | [Archives](#) |

TEAM-BY-TEAM PREVIEWS

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CARLETON | [Knights' men's swimming and diving home page](#) |

Head coach

- Andy Clark (21st season)

A Year Ago

- 3rd place | 528 points

In the 2013 NCAA Championships

- 26th out of 49 teams (31 points)
- Eric Klontz placed 2nd at the NCAA Championships in the 50-yard freestyle (All-American) and 7th in the 100-yard freestyle (All-American). Additionally, the Carleton 200 Meter Relay team finished 16th at the NCAA Championships (All-American Honorable Mention).

Top Returners

- Benito Ramirez, Sr. – 2013 All-MIAC in 800 freestyle relay and 200 butterfly; 2012 All-MIAC in 200 fly, 200 medley relay, and 400 free relay; All-MIAC in three events in 2011
- Evan Harris, Jr. – 2013 All-MIAC in 200 medley relay and 200 breaststroke
- George McAneny, So. – 2013 All-American Honorable Mention (200 free relay); 2013 All-MIAC in 200 freestyle relay and 200 medley relay

Key Losses

- Erik Klontz – 2012 All-American (50 free - 8th); 2013 All-American (50 free 2nd, 100 free 7th); 2012 All-American Honorable Mention (100 free - 10th); 2013 All-American Honorable Mention (200 FR - 16th); 2012 MIAC Champion (50 free); 2013 MIAC Champion (50 free, 100 free, 200 free relay), 12-time All-Conference performer, 2013 MIAC Swimmer of the Year
- Mamoru Kanazawa - 2013 All-American Honorable Mention (200 FR - 16th), 2013 MIAC Champion (200 FR), 13-time All-Conference Performer
- Andy Hardt - Two-time All-Conference Performer, 2012 Academic All-Conference, 2013 Most Inspirational

By the Numbers

- 4: Sophomore Stephen Grinich ranks fourth all-time in school history in the 50 freestyle. Additionally, he ranks sixth all-time in the 100 freestyle.
- 6: In six of the last eight seasons, the Knights have finished in the top four at the MIAC Championships
- 7: Last year's captain Erik Klontz holds seven separate Carleton College swim records including the 50 freestyle and 100 freestyle

Did You Know?

- Erik Klontz earned the distinction as a CSCAA Scholar All-American last season

Out of the Pool

- The Knights just completed leading the 8th annual "Hour of Power" to aid sarcoma research. For more information, visit <http://go.carleton.edu/HourOfPower>.



GUSTAVUS | [Gusties' men's swimming and diving home page](#) |

Head coach

- Jon Carlson (24th Season)

A Year Ago

- 4th Place | 526 Points

Top Returners

- Zac Solis (Jr., Centennial, Colo.) | Two-time All-Conference performer in 2013...Placed runner-up in both 500 freestyle and 200 backstroke...Achieved NCAA B cut with a 1:52.13 in the 200 back.
- Donte Colucci (So., Summit, N.J.) | Two-time All-Conference performer last season...Placed second in the 100 backstroke and was a member of the second place 400-medley relay team.
- Bennet Woltjer (So., Kandiyohi, Minn.) | Diver...Placed third in the one-meter diving competition at the 2013 MIAC Championships...Qualified for the NCAA Division III Diving Regional.

By the Numbers

- 3: The number of swimmers Gustavus lost due to graduation last season.
- 4: The number of home meets Gustavus has on its 2013-14 schedule. The Gusties will take part in three home duals against St. Cloud State (Nov. 9), St. Olaf (Nov. 15), and Carleton (Jan. 10), and will host the Gustie Mini Invitational on Nov. 23.
- 4: The number of times Gustavus has finished outside the top three at the MIAC Championships during the tenure of Head Coach Jon Carlson.

Did You Know?

- On Saturday, Oct. 12, the Gustavus Adolphus Athletic Department and the swimming and diving program honored one of its own by naming the Gustavus Natatorium after 1942 graduate and Hall of Fame Head Coach John Victor (Vic) Gustafson. Vic Gustafson was the swimming coach at Gustavus from 1945-77 and during his coaching career led the Gusties to eight MIAC Championships (1949, 1952, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960).

Out of the Pool

- The Gustavus Adolphus men's swimming and diving was recognized by the College Swimming Coaches Association of America (CSCAA) for its efforts in the classroom last season. With a team GPA of 3.06, the men's squad was honored as a CSCAA Scholar All-America Team, while two individual swimmers were recognized as Scholar All-Americans. Ross Larson (Jr., Brookings, S.D.) and Jacob Stern (So., Rosemount, Minn.) were named to the Scholar All-American Honorable Mention Team.



HAMLIN | [Pipers' men's swimming and diving home page](#) |

Head coach

- Ryan Hawke (First season)

A Year Ago

- 6th place | 138 points

Top Returners

- Zack Lameyer (Sr., Distance/IM)
- Tyler Stanchfield (So., Distance)
- Glenn Dworsky-Rye (Jr., Back/Free)

Key Losses

- Ben Smidt (Fly/ IM)
- Parker Johnson (Back/Free)

By the Numbers

- 1: senior on the 2013-14 team
- 12: newcomers on the 2013-14 team
- 19: total on the roster, largest contingent in years

Did You Know?

- Connor Benson, a sophomore, is also a member of the HU men's soccer team – a rare pairing of sports.

Out of the Pool

- The Pipers helped run the cleanup detail after the Twin Cities Marathon – something they have done for many years.

MACALESTER | [Scots' men's swimming and diving home page](#) |



Head coach

- Beth Whittle (Fourth Season)

A Year Ago

- 7th place | 134 points

Top Returners

- Ben Kromash (Distance Free, So. | 5th in 1650 Freestyle at MIAC meet '13)
- Nathan Schachtman (Breast, Sr.)
- Clark Jacobson (Freestyle, Sr.)

Key Losses

- Jackson Gilkey (Freestyle)
- Ted Metz (Breast)

By the Numbers

- 10: Macalester's men's roster is made up of swimmers from 10 states, as well as one foreign country
- 5: Macalester's best MIAC individual finish last year was fifth posted by Ben Kromash in the mile.

Did You Know?

- Head Coach Beth Whittle is a member of the Linfield College (Ore.) Athletic Hall of Fame. Whittle was a two-time Northwest Conference of Independent Colleges Female Swimmer of the Year and four-time NAIA All-American performer. Her crowning achievement came at the 1996 NAIA National Championships when she won the 200-yard backstroke as a junior.

Out of the Pool

- The Macalester men combined to register a 3.58 GPA during the Fall 2012 semester, the second-best team GPA among all Division III teams to earn CSCAA All-American team honors.

SAINT JOHN'S | [Johnnies' men's swimming and diving home page](#)



Head Coach

- Bill Saxton (16th season)

A Year Ago

- 5th place | 438 points

Top Returners

- Nolan Bauer (So. | Fifth in 1,650-yard freestyle, top 10 in both the 200- and 400-yard freestyles as a freshman at 2013 MIAC Championships)
- Joe Duxbury (Jr. | Member of two second-place, school-record relays at the 2013 MIAC Championships: 200-yard freestyle and 200-yard medley; also finished 11th in both the 50-yard freestyle and 100-yard butterfly; Academic All-MIAC)
- Braden McCormack (So. | Posted fourth-fastest time in school history in the 100-yard backstroke to take fifth at 2013 MIAC Championships; also took sixth in the 200-yard backstroke and was a member of the Johnnies' school-record 200-yard medley relay team)

Key Losses

- Logan Arnold (Five-time All-MIAC honoree; owns the SJU record in the 200-yard freestyle; finished second in both the 50- and 200-yard freestyles at the 2013 MIAC Championships)

- Preston Marsh (Set two SJU records to finish second in the 100-yard breaststroke and third in the 200-yard individual medley as a freshman at the 2013 MIAC Championships; was also a member of the two second-place, school-record relays)

By the Numbers

- 1: SJU is scheduled to host only one home event during the 2013-14 season, a dual against St. Thomas on Dec. 14.
- 6: Six returning Johnnies finished in the top 16 individually in at least one event as a freshman at the 2013 MIAC Championships.
- 5: The 2012-13 Johnnies broke five of its school records last season, while seven others cracked the top five of their respective events all-time.

Did You Know?

- Of the 40 previous appearances at the MIAC Championships (since 1974), SJU has finished in the top three 33 times, including 16 seasons in second place. The Johnnies, however, have never won the conference title.

Out of the Pool

- Duxbury and classmate Brian Bohman (Shoreview, Minn./Cretin-Derham Hall) earned Academic All-MIAC distinction with impressive GPA's as sophomores last spring. Duxbury is an accounting major with a 3.97 GPA, while Bohman is a chemistry and mathematics double-major with a 3.93 GPA.



SAINT MARY'S | [Cardinals' men's swimming and diving home page](#)

Head coach

- Eric Lindquist (15th season)

A Year Ago

- 8th Place | 96 points

Top Returners

- P.J. Hellelr (6-6, 200, So. | Owned team's top times in 50, 100 and 200 freestyle as a freshman in 2012-13)

Key Losses

- Mark Ross (Owned team's top times in 500 freestyle, 50 backstroke, 100 backstroke, 200 backstroke, 100 breaststroke, 200 IM, 400 IM; School record holder in 100 backstroke, 200 backstroke, 200 IM, 400 IM)

By the Numbers

- 8: Mark Ross graduated from Saint Mary's as an eight-time record-holder. Ross holds the school's top times in the 100 and 200 backstroke, 200 and 400 IM, and is a member of the 200 freestyle, 400 freestyle, 200 medley and 400 medley relay teams.
- 100: Every member of the SMU men's swimming and diving team who competed at the MIAC Championships posted a season-best performance at the season-ending event.
- 54:74: Mark Ross' 100 backstroke time of 54:74 is the third-fastest time in program history.

Did You Know?

- Four of the Cardinals' nine competitions leading up to the MIAC Championships this season will be held in the comforts of their own home — the Jul Gernes Pool.

Out Of The Pool

- The SMU men's swimming & diving team was among 78 NCAA Division III schools to earn College Swimming Coaches Association of America (CSCAA) fall and spring All-America Scholar honors.



ST. OLAF | [Oles' men's swimming and diving home page](#) |

Head coach

- Bob Hauck (24th season)

A Year Ago

- 1st place | 787 points

In the 2013 NCAA Championships

- 11th at NCAA's

Top Returners

- Billy Brebrick (Sprint Free, Fly, Soph. | MIAC record holder in 200 fly (1:48.94), MIAC meet record in 100 fly (48.98))
- Mike Gratz (Sprint Free, IM, Jr. | All-America, MIAC champion in 200 IM)
- Tanner Roe (Free, Jr. | MIAC meet record holder in 200 Free (1:39.50), won 500 Free)

By the Numbers

- 29: St. Olaf has won 29 MIAC championships, including four of the last seven and a streak of 20 in a row from 1980-1999.
- 3:16.87: The relay team of Gratz, Kubat, Brebrick and Roe was All-America with a fifth place finish in the 400 IM in 3:16.87 in March.
- 40: The 2013-14 season is the 40th at St. Olaf for coach Dave Hauck.



ST. THOMAS | [Tommies' men's swimming and diving home page](#) |

Head coach

- Tom Hodgson (35th season)

A Year Ago

- 2nd place | 748 points

In the 2013 NCAA Championships

- 2013 NCAA Men's Swimming and Diving Championships - Michael Lanz competed in 100, 200 fly

Top Performers

- Nick Johnson, SR, Diver (2013 MIAC champion in both one- and three-meter)
- Ben Henrickson, SR, Sprints (2X MIAC runner-up at 50 free)
- Michael Lanz, FR, Butterfly (NCAA qualifier as a freshman; MIAC runner-up 100, 200 fly)

Key Losses

- Sam Rauchwarter, SR, Sprints (3X NCAA qualifier)

By the Numbers

- 1942: Last time UST men's team went unbeaten in regular-season duals or invitationals, a feat matched by the 2012-13 Toms
- 4: Number of Mullee brothers to compete in UST swimming and diving, including current senior backstroke Justin Mullee
- 6-4-3-1-2-1-2: Team placings at MIAC Championships for St. Thomas men over last seven seasons

Did You Know?

- Current Tommie freshman sprinter Luke Schneeman of St. Thomas Academy is the grandson of St. Thomas swimming Athletic Hall of Famer Dan Schneeman (Class of '54). Luke's first cousins are fellow STA graduates Fritz and Nick Waldvogel of Tommie football fame.

Out of the Pool

- The Tommies had six male swimmer/divers make Academic All-MIAC last winter with cumulative grade-point averages of 3.50 or higher. St. Thomas made the 64-team College Swimming Coaches' Association of America (CSCAA) Scholar All-America Team last spring with its 3.33 team gpa.

[MIAC Men's Swimming and Diving Home Page](#)