

2017 MIAC Men's Swimming and Diving Championships Preview

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2017 MIAC MEN'S SWIMMING AND DIVING CHAMPIONSHIPS PREVIEW

MINNEAPOLIS – The 2017 Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (MIAC) Men's Swimming and Diving Championships are rapidly approaching, and with standout swimmers and talented divers in abundance this season, excitement is at an all-time high for one of the MIAC's marquee events.

The conference meet will be held Thursday, Friday, and Saturday at one of the nation's premier facilities – the University of Minnesota's Jean K. Freeman Aquatic Center in Minneapolis – and the MIAC's eight men's teams all enter the championships with high hopes for either sustained success, or upward mobility in the final standings.

The University of St. Thomas returns to headline the field, as Head Coach Scott Blanchard's club hopes to hoist the championship trophy for the third-straight season. Saint John's, St. Olaf, Gustavus and Carleton all hope to challenge UST and form a very strong top five, with Hamline, Macalester and Saint Mary's all eager to show off their continued improvement on the conference's biggest stage.



In 2016, the Tommie men captured their second-straight conference title in dominant fashion, as they nearly lapped the field en route to the championship with a total score of 883.5. Saint John's led a spirited battle for second place with 495 points, as teams ranked 2-5 all scored at least 442 points. St. Olaf was third with a total of 474.5, Gustavus surged into fourth with 468 points and Carleton rounded out the top five with a score of 442. Hamline finished sixth with 192 points, Macalester's score of 142 was good for seventh, and Saint Mary's rounded out the men's final standings with 92 points.

Three-time MIAC Swimmer-of-the-Year Mike Lanz is no longer in the St. Thomas lineup, after the All-American completed his career last winter, but fellow Tommie Andrew Grabowski is back as the two-time defending MIAC Diver-of-the-Year, as well as the two-time 3-meter champion, and he also won the 1-meter title a year ago. The Tommie men will reload with junior Warren Melton, who won the 200-free, 500-free and 1,650-free titles a year ago, and All-MIAC junior Bailey Biwer back to lead the way in the pool as well.

The Johnnies hope for another top-two finish and have a strong senior trio back to lead the way. Two-time 100-free champion Kenny Bergman is back to go for a three-peat, and he'll be joined in the pool by All-MIAC swimmer Jose Alvarez, and All-MIAC diver Justin Wollin. St. Olaf brings back two All-MIAC swimmers in Bobby Schultze and Nathan France and rookie Jon Loepfe has had a breakout season in preparation for his first MIAC Championships.

Gustavus has super sophomore Tanner Sonnek back to defend his MIAC title in the 200-yard breaststroke, and he's joined by breakout rookies Logan Bican and Matt Allison as the Gusties try to continue their climb up the standings. Carleton brings back All-MIAC senior Alex Mathson to lead its team as the Knights hope for another top-five MIAC finish, and they also have high hopes for junior Colin Lau and freshman Jack Dalluge.

Hamline's Hodd Gorman is back for his junior season after earning All-MIAC honors a year ago, and the Pipers are also excited about senior Ethan Ross in the butterfly events and the emergence of rookie swimmer Gabe McGee. Macalester will be led by a trio of sophomores, as Paul Rischmann and Taylor Durbin have posted solid times in the pool and Jacob Roux has had a great campaign on the diving boards. Saint Mary's has solid leadership back in talented senior Joe Tonda, and sophomore Lucas Gerads hopes to make a splash in the butterfly events.

The 2017 MIAC Swimming and Diving Championships will be held Thursday, Feb. 16, through Saturday, Feb. 18, with two sessions each day. The morning sessions will begin at 10:30 a.m. (doors at 9 p.m.) and will feature preliminary races, with the evening championship sessions starting at 6:30 p.m. (doors at 5:30 p.m.). Saturday's championship doors will open at 2:30 p.m. for preliminary heats of the 1,650-yard freestyle and diving.

Tickets are available at either a single-session rate, or all-session passes will also be available for fans who plan to attend the entire event. Single-session passes cost \$10 for adults and \$5 for students, and all-session passes are \$50 for adults and \$25 for students. Heat sheets are included in the cost of admission. Children 5 and under are admitted free, and MIAC passes will be honored for all six session. No other passes or discounts will be accepted.

As in years past, all six sessions will be [broadcast live online](#) thanks to [Webcast America](#). Fans will also be able to watch archived video of each session following the event and purchase DVDs of the broadcasts via Webcast America's site. [MIAC Media's Mike Gallagher](#) will handle play-by-play duties for four of the six sessions. There will also be ["live" results available online](#) with results updated shortly after the conclusion of each event for fans following the action from afar.

The MIAC has an exclusive Web site for the [2017 MIAC Swimming & Diving Championships](#). The site features the complete [event schedule](#), [psych sheet](#), [ticket information](#) and [venue information](#). The site will be constantly updated throughout the event with heat sheets, links to follow the action live, results, recaps, photos and more.

Fans can also monitor MIAC men's swimming and diving on-the-go thanks to the [MIAC mobile app](#), which is a free download for both Apple and Android devices. Also, connect to the conference on its [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [YouTube](#) pages and use the official event hashtag #MIACSD to interact throughout the championships.

The rest of the 2017 MIAC Men's Swimming and Diving Championships Preview contains helpful links and a championship preview for each team submitted by their sports information director.

MIAC SWIMMING & DIVING PODCAST PREVIEW

The 2017 MIAC Swimming and Diving Championships are just a few days away, and MIAC Weekly Host Mike Gallagher has a [full preview of the conference meet](#). Defending NCAA Division III Outstanding Swimmer Emma Paulson of St. Thomas joins to preview the women's meet, and Saint John's senior Kenny Bergman also joins the show to preview the men's championships.

[CLICK HERE TO LISTEN!](#)

MIAC MEN'S SWIMMING AND DIVING LINKS

| [MIAC Men's Swimming and Diving Page](#) | [Schedule/Results](#) | [Top Times](#) | [News](#) | [Athletes-of-the-Week](#) | [Season Preview](#) | [Recordbook](#) | [Archives](#) |

TEAM-BY-TEAM PREVIEWS

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

Head coach

- Andy Clark (24th season)

A Year Ago

- 5th place | 476 points

Swimmers and Divers to Watch

- Alex Mathson (Sr. | Five-time All-MIAC performer; finished third in the 400IM at the 2015 and 2016 MIAC Championships; runner up in the 1650 freestyle at 2015 conference meet; this season ranks 6th in 400 IM, 8th in 200 breaststroke, 9th in 1650 freestyle, and 10th in 100 breaststroke and 500 freestyle)
- Colin Lau (Jr. | this season ranks 7th in MIAC in the 200 breaststroke, 10th in 100 butterfly, 12th in 100 breaststroke, and 14th in 200 IM)
- Jack Dalluge (Fy. | this season ranks 6th in the MIAC in the 200 freestyle, 8th in 1650 freestyle, and 14th in 500 freestyle)

Did You Know?

- For the 24th year in a row, the Carleton Men's Swimming and Diving team was named as an All-Academic team by the CSCAA. The Knights posted a 3.38 GPA as a team.



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

Head coach

- Jon Carlson (27th season)

A Year Ago

- 4th place | 468 points

Swimmers and Divers to Watch

- Tanner Sonnek (So. | 2016 MIAC All-Conference, MIAC top 100 & 200 breaststroke time)
- Logan Bican (Fy. | One-meter diving regional qualifier, MIAC top score in 1-meter, 11 dives and 3-meter, 11 dives)
- Matt Allison (Fy. | MIAC second best 50 freestyle time of 21.67.)

Did You Know?

- Tanner Sonnek's 100-yard breaststroke time of 56.12 set Dec. 2 broke a Gustavus program record, previously set last season by himself.



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

Head coach

- Ryan Hawke (3rd season)

A Year Ago

- 6th place | 220 points

Swimmers and Divers to Watch

- Hodd Gorman (Jr., Holds school records for 200, 500, 1000 and 1650 Free, 5th in MIAC in 100 medley)
- Ethan Ross (Sr., 4th ranked in MIAC in 200 Butterfly, 11th in 100 Butterfly)
- Gabe Mcgee (Fr., outstanding first season)

Did You Know?

- The Pipers give lessons to nearby Hamline Elementary school. This continues a tradition that dates back to when the legendary Marty Knight coached at HU.

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



Head coach

- Beth Whittle (7th season)

A Year Ago

- 7th place | 166 points

Swimmers and Divers to Watch

- Paul Reischmann (So. | Has posted top-5 MIAC times in both distance events)
- Taylor Durbin (So. | Ranks among the top 25 in the MIAC in four events)
- Jacob Roux (So. | Has top-5 scores in both diving events)

Did You Know?

- The swimming and diving teams volunteered at Second Harvest and packed nearly 6,000 pounds of donated food.

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



Head coach

- Bill Saxton (19th season)

A Year Ago

- 2nd Place | 527 points

Swimmers and Divers to Watch

- Jose Alvarez (Sr. | Earned All-MIAC honors with a 3rd-place finish in the 200-yard individual medley...also placed fifth in the 200-yard backstroke in the conference meet last year...owns the 6th-best MIAC times in the 100-yard backstroke and 200-yard backstroke this season...three-time All-MIAC in his career)
- Kenny Bergman (Sr. | Is the two-time defending MIAC champion in the 100-yard freestyle...owns the 2nd-fastest 100-yard freestyle time and 3rd-fastest 50-yard freestyle times in the MIAC this season...took fifth in the 50-yard freestyle in 2016...was a member of SJU's 200-yard freestyle relay that placed second last year...three-time All-MIAC in his career)
- Justin Wollin (Sr. | Earned All-MIAC honors with a third-place finish in the 1-meter dive...also placed fourth in the 3-meter dive for the third consecutive season)

Did You Know?

- SJU head coach Bill Saxton was named MIAC Swimming Coach of the Year for the second time in his 18-year career last season. The Johnnies jumped from a fourth-place finish in 2015 to a second-place finish last spring. Saxton last won the award in 2003 when he earned the swimming and diving combined MIAC Coach of the Year award.

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



Head coach

- Amber Bartholomew (2nd season)

A Year Ago

- 8th place | 114 points

Swimmers and Divers to Watch

- Joe Tonda (Senior, IM/Backstroke/Breaststroke) | Narrowly missed reaching consolation final in 200 IM and 100 Breast at 2016 MIAC Championships. ... Posted his career-best time in the 200 IM (2:01.61) at MIAC Championships ... Heads into 2017 MIAC Championships with MIAC's 10th fastest 400 IM time, 4:29.18, 11th fastest 100 breaststroke time, 1:02.49 , and the 16th fastest 200 IM time, 2:04.38).
- Lucas Gerads (Sophomore | Butterfly) | Narrowly missed reaching consolation finals in both the 200 butterfly & 100 Fly at 2016 MIAC Championships, finishing in 17th & 18th place, respectively. ... Set a career personal best in the 100 butterfly, stopping the clock in 56.11.

Did You Know?

- Joe Tonda put together his season- and collegiate-best times in the 200 IM, 100 Backstroke & 200 Breaststroke at the 2016 MIAC Championships.

ST. OLAF



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

Head coach

- Bob Hauck (28th season)

A Year Ago

- 3rd place | 502.5 points

Swimmers and Divers to Watch

- Jon Loepfe (Fr. | MIAC top times in 100 Back, 200 Back; 7th-best in 200 IM)
- Nathan France (Sr. | No. 2 MIAC time in 100 Breast, No. 3 time in 200 Breast)
- Bobby Schultze (Sr. | Top time in 1650 Free, No. 3 times in the 500 Free, 1000 Free)



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

Head coach

- Scott Blanchard (3rd season)

A Year Ago

- 1st place | 923.5 points

In the 2016 Postseason

- NCAA Championships, 14th place

Swimmers and Divers to Watch

- Bailey Biwer (Jr., | Free/Fly; 5 career relays wins at MIACs; ranks first in MIAC in six individual events)
- Andrew Grabowski (Jr., | 2X MIAC Diver of the Year, 3 career MIAC titles)
- Warren Melton (Jr., | 7 career individual or relay wins at MIACs; ranked this season in MIAC in 500 free (first) and 1650 free (third))

Did You Know?

- The St. Thomas men have seven consecutive MIAC top-two finishes, led by championships in 2010, 2012, 2015 and 2016.

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