

2018 MIAC Men's Swimming and Diving Championship Preview

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MINNEAPOLIS – The Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (MIAC) is set to open its 2018 Swimming and Diving Championships on Thursday.

Eight men's teams from around the MIAC will compete in the three-day meet held Thursday- Saturday at one of the nation's premier facilities, the University of Minnesota's Jean K. Freeman Aquatic Center in Minneapolis.

St. Thomas once again looks to be the team to beat, as the Tommies locked up their third consecutive Conference title last February; however, a strong regular season across the Conference indicates that competition for the MIAC crown will be as heated as ever.

The 2018 MIAC Swimming and Diving Championships will be held Thursday, Feb. 15, through Saturday, Feb. 17, with two sessions each day. The morning sessions will begin at 10:30 a.m. (doors at 9 a.m.) and will feature preliminary races, with the evening championship sessions starting at 6:30 p.m. (doors at 5:30 p.m.).

Tickets are available at a single-session rate, with all-session passes also 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 ages 5 and under are admitted free, and MIAC passes will be honored for all six sessions. No other passes or discounts will be accepted.

All six sessions will also be [broadcast live online](#) thanks to [Webcast America](#), and fans will be able to watch archived video of each session following the event via Webcast America's site. "Live" results will be available [online](#) throughout the meet, with official finishes posted to the MIAC website shortly after each session.



FOLLOW THE ACTION

The [MIAC Swimming and Diving Championship homepage](#) features the complete [event schedule](#), [psych sheet](#), ticket policy and [venue information](#). The site will be updated throughout the event with heat sheets, stat links, results, recaps and photos. 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.

IN THE POLLS

St. Thomas is ranked 23rd in the nation in the latest CSCAA Poll, which ranks the Top 25 teams in NCAA Division III each month.

KEEP AN EYE ON

Andrew Chang | Fy. | Carleton

A two-time MIAC Athlete of the Week in his debut season, Chang ranks among the Conference's five fastest in the 100 individual medley, 400 individual medley and 100 butterfly this year. The first-year Knight also played a key role in Carleton's first dual victory over rival St. Olaf in 25 years when he claimed top honors in the 100-yard butterfly, 200-yard butterfly, and 200-yard individual medley to close out the month of January.

Kieran Cuddy | Fy. | Macalester

Another first-year phenom turning heads this season, Cuddy took first-place in the 1-meter dive with a six dive score of 264.65 at the St. Olaf Invitational in January, breaking a 27-year-old program record in the process. Cuddy has earned at least one first-place finish in seven of nine meets this season.

Mitchell Dockendorf | Fy. | Saint John's

The Johnnies graduated a slew of seniors following last season's MIAC Championships, creating ample opportunity for underclassmen to shine. Dockendorf has done just that, ranking among the top six in the Conference in both the 100 backstroke and 100 individual medley in his first season of collegiate competition.

Hodd Gorman | Sr. | Hamline

The Pipers' senior distance swimmer has paced Hamline all season, boasting five MIAC top-10 times, including top-five ranks in the 200 freestyle (third), 500 freestyle (fourth) and 1000 freestyle (fifth).

Andrew Grabowski | Sr. | St. Thomas

A three-time MIAC Diver of the Year and five-time MIAC diving champion, Grabowski enters his final Conference Championship as a heavy favorite after claiming wins in both the 1- and 3-meter diving events last year and breaking his own school record on the 1-meter with a score of 312.37 earlier this month.

Leif Jorgensen | So. | St. Olaf

An All-MIAC selection a season ago, Jorgensen has emerged as a contender in every diving event. Jorgensen posted the top MIAC 11-dive score of the season off the one-meter board with a 454.30 in January and ranks second in the Conference in three diving events.

Griffin Rades | Fy. | Saint Mary's

One of a pair of first-year standouts on the Cardinals' swimming and diving team, Rades has logged a trio of top-10 MIAC times this season, landing at eighth in the 400 individual medley and 10th in the 200 individual medley back in December, while clocking in at 58.71 in the 100 individual medley to open 2018 – good for the ninth-fastest time in the Conference this season.

Tanner Sonnek | Jr. | Gustavus

The 2017 MIAC Swimmer of the Year and two-time All-American broke the Conference record in the 100-yard breaststroke in addition to claiming the 200-yard individual medley and 200-yard breaststroke crowns as a sophomore last year. It has been more of the same for Sonnek this season, as the junior swimmer has posted the top MIAC times in the 100 and 200 breaststrokes, as well as the 100 individual medley.