

2003 MIAC MEN'S SOCCER PREVIEW


The 2003 MIAC men's soccer season gets underway with non-conference games beginning August 29. MIAC conference play begins September 17. Last year's MIAC Champion Macalester College looks to be the favorite going into the season. The Scots compiled a 9-0-1 conference record in 2002 and won their second consecutive title and fifth MIAC Championship in the past six seasons. Macalester is currently ranked #7 in the nation in the NSCAA Division III preseason poll.

Gustavus, last season's runner-up, returns eight starters and hopes to bring home their second title in four years. St. Thomas and Saint John's, tied for third place in 2002, will look to challenge for the conference title. The Tommies return two members from the MIAC All-Conference squad and a host of talent. The Johnnies have had at least twelve wins in each of their last three seasons and return several key players.


The 2003 season begins a new tradition for MIAC men's and women's soccer as they will hold a conference playoff with the top four teams from regular season play competing. Semifinals will be Wednesday, November 5 followed by the championship game Saturday, Nov. 8. The winner will receive the MIAC's automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament.

Augsburg College		
Head Coach:	Mike Navarre (5th season / 17-48-3 overall)	
2002 Record:	4-11-2 (1-8-1 MIAC / 10th)	
Key Returners:	<p>Matt Lachner (Sr., F, Maple Grove, Minn.), 4th on team in scoring in '02 (1G-5A--7P), career totals of 14G-15A-43P.</p> <p>Steve Gehrman (Sr., MF, Maple Grove, Minn.), 5th on team in scoring in '02 (1G-3A--5P), career totals of 7G-9A--23P.</p> <p>Mike Elcano (Jr., F, Sparks, Nev.), team's leader - scoring in '02 (10G-4A--24P), career: 15G-7A--37P, All-MIAC HM '02.</p> <p>Aaron Riedel (So., MF/F, Minneapolis, Minn./South HS), second on team in scoring in 2002 (7G-6A--20P).</p> <p>Chad Clausen (So., GK, St. Paul, Minn./Highland Park HS), 2.87 GAA in 2002, 3-6-0 record, 55 saves.</p> <p>Jason Clark (Sr., MF, Eagan, Minn.), 47 games in career (30 starts), 1G-3A--5P in 2002.</p> <p>Garrett Robertson (Sr., D, Maple Grove, Minn.), 3-year starter (42 games, 41 starts), 1G-0A--2P in 2002.</p> <p>Geoff Johnson (So., D, Blaine, Minn.), started all 17 games on defense in 2002, 0G-1A--1P.</p>	


Season Preview:	<p>Every year, since Mike Navarre assumed head coaching duties for the Augsburg College men's soccer team five years ago, the Auggies have taken a step forward. Steps forward have come in the quality of recruits, the quality of players, and the quality of competition.</p> <p>Unfortunately, playing in one of the most competitive soccer conferences in the nation, the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference, Augsburg's positive steps have not yet translated into many victories.</p> <p>This season, with six seniors and a solid group of returners, Navarre is aiming for the team's positive steps to show up in the win column.</p> <p>"The seniors on this team built the program, and their level of play has improved tremendously," Navarre said. "Hopefully, this will be the year where the pieces come together and the wins reflect it."</p> <p>Eight starters return from a team that went 4-11-2 overall, 1-8-1 in the MIAC last season. Chief among them are several seniors -- forward Matt Lachner (Sr., Maple Grove, Minn.), midfielder Steve Gehrman (Sr., Maple Grove, Minn./Osseo HS) and defender/midfielders Garrett Robertson (Sr., Maple Grove, Minn.) and Jason Clark (Sr., Eagan, Minn.).</p> <p>Lachner suffered through a back injury last season that sidelined him for two games and hampered his aggressive scoring ability in several other games. As a result, he scored just one goal with five assists last season. But this year, Navarre said that Lachner is healthy and ready to be a leader again.</p> <p>Gehrman has been a steady contributor throughout his career in the midfield, with seven career goals and nine career assists entering this season. Robertson, who has started 41 of his 42 career games, has been a steadying force in the defensive area, as has Clark, who has been a starter for two seasons.</p> <p>Reserve seniors Hans Strommen (Sr., North Oaks, Minn./Mounds View HS), a defender, and goalkeeper Han Zeller (Sr., Winona, Minn.) should also contend for more playing time this year.</p> <p>Five of the team's top six scorers from last year return, led by forward Mike Elcano (Jr., Sparks, Nev.). Elcano earned honorable-mention All-MIAC honors last season with a 10-goal, four-assist performance. Elcano will be joined on the forward line by Aaron Riedel (So., Minneapolis, Minn./South HS), who made an impact in his first season with seven goals and six assists.</p> <p>Clarke Athman (Jr., St. Joseph, Minn./Athman Home School) and Colin Lyons (So., Maple Grove, Minn.) also return as forwards for the Auggies.</p> <p>In the midfield, Gehrman, Robertson and Clark will be joined by sophomores Matt Argall (So., New Ulm, Minn.) and John Dumer (So., White Bear Lake, Minn.) and four recruits -- Dave Reissner (Fr., Greenwood Village, Colo.), Nick Stuber (Fr., Cadillac, Mich.), Noah Turner (Fr., Plymouth, Minn./Wayzata HS) and Ociel Ornelas (Fr., Mexico).</p> <p>The defense will be the biggest concern for the Auggies, following the graduation of two-time All-MIAC stopper Joel Stone. Only one starter -- Geoff Johnson (So., Blaine, Minn.) -- returns, along with two players with some experience -- Jon Martinson (Jr., St. Paul, Minn./Cretin-Derham Hall HS) and Yuri Bahdanionak (Jr., Minsk, Belarus).</p> <p>Three recruits -- Vinnie Brooks (Fr., Maple Grove, Minn./Osseo HS), Kyle Danner (Fr., Elk River, Minn.) and Noah Turner (Fr., Plymouth, Minn./Wayzata HS) -- will be asked to shoulder some of the defensive load. Brooks and Danner were all-conference selections in high school, Danner on an Elk River team that placed third in the Minnesota state tournament last season.</p> <p>Augsburg's goalkeeping duo of Chad Clausen (So., St. Paul, Minn./Highland Park HS) and Zeller return, joined by Lucas Grant (So., Starbuck, Minn./Minnewaska Area HS), who saw some action in goal in 2001 before taking last season off. Clausen and Zeller combined for a 2.62 goals-against-average last season, making 105 saves while allowing 46 goals.</p> <p>Complete Preview can be found at: http://www.augsburg.edu/athletics/soccer/0304mpreview.html</p>
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Bethel College			
Head Coach:	Chad Osgood (1st season / 0-0-0 overall)		
2002 Record:	8-9-1 (4-6-0 MIAC / 7th-tie)		


Key Returners:	<p>Eric Berg (Hastings, Minn.), Goalkeeper, JR, 5-8 in 2002, recorded six shutouts as a freshman (Bethel record)</p> <p>Brent Schiestl (Brooklyn Park, Minn.), Defense, SR, All-MIAC honorable mention in 2001</p> <p>Doug Wester (Princeton, N.J.), Midfielder, SR, All-MIAC honorable mention in 2001</p> <p>Ryan Dorn (Carol Stream, Ill.), Defense, SR</p> <p>Scott Hamlin (Apple Valley, Minn.), Midfielder, JR, 5 goals/3 assists in 2002</p> <p>Tim Pellitteri (Madison, Wis.), Forward, SR, 3 goals/2 assists in 2002</p>
Season Preview:	<p>As the Royals begin the 2003 men's soccer season, there is reason for optimism as they return a number of quality players who have gained valuable game experience in recent years.</p> <p>A quality senior class, led by Doug Wester, Brent Schiestl, and Tim Pellitteri, will look to make up for the loss of MIAC Most Valuable Player Pepe Jon Chavez. Also looking to carry some of the scoring burden will be juniors Scott Hamlin and Ben Powers and sophomore Ryan McKellips.</p> <p>The Royals will be under the direction of interim head coach Chad Osgood, who replaced three-year head coach Tim Wiens. Chavez will be assisting Osgood and will be looking to infuse his scoring style into the lineup.</p> <p>Complete Preview can be found at: http://www.bethel.edu/Athletics/M_Soccer/2003/preview.html</p>

Carleton College		
Head Coach:	Bob Carlson (7th season/ 51-44-12 overall)	
2002 Record:	8-7-3 (3-5-2 MIAC / 7th-tie)	
Key Returners:	Jeremy Schultz, Sr., M, All-MIAC H.M. in '01 with 6 goals and 2 assists, missed all of 2002 with injury Joe Sutherland, Sr., D, All-MIAC honorable mention in 2002 Brett Mularski, Sr., D, 2002 NSCAA Scholar Athlete, All-Region honorable mention David Watson, So., F, All-MIAC in 2002, led MIAC in scoring with 17 pts, 7 goals, 7 assists overall Yemi Andegunju, Jr., F, All-MIAC honorable mention in 2002, 5 goals, 1 assist in 2002, 8 goals, 2 assists in career Kurt Bunnelle, So., D/MF Damian Winters, Sr., MF	

Season Preview:	<p>A strong, experienced and savvy group of returners and infusion of new talent into the program has Carleton head men's soccer coach Bob Carlson and his Knights' squad gunning for a spot in the newly-created four-team MIAC Tournament in 2003.</p> <p>The conference's leading scorer, sophomore David Watson (Woodbury, Minn.) leads a group of five returning starters and 10 returning letterwinners. Watson tallied 17 points in 10 league games and tallied seven goals and seven assists overall, pacing the second-highest scoring offense in the MIAC in 2002.</p> <p>Although Watson will be a heavily marked man this fall, the comeback of senior co-captain Jeremy Schutlz (Walton, Neb./Waverly) means that opposing defenders cannot focus solely on the speedy sophomore. Schutlz, who sat out all of last season with injury, scored six goals and posted 14 points in 2001. His physical presence, high skill-level and brute strength will be a perfect compliment to Watson's shifty, speed-oriented attack. Junior Yemi Adegunju (Winnipeg, Manitoba/Vincent Massey Collegiate) is a combination of the two, using great speed and superior strength to score five goals en route to an All-MIAC honorable mention season, giving Carleton three proven goal-scorers.</p> <p>Two returning defensive stalwarts in seniors Joe Sutherland and Brett Mularski will support this formidable offensive attack. Sutherland, All-MIAC honorable mention last year, tallied a pair of assists in 2002 and was Carleton's defensive stalwart, according to Carlson. Mularski battled injury throughout the season but is Carlson's defensive quarterback and is a key to Carleton's 2003 success. Damian Winters (Sr./Concord, Mass./Concord Academy) will patrol the midfield and is Carleton's fifth returning starter.</p> <p>Carlson will bring eight players into pre-season camp, an unprecedented number in his seven-year tenure. With only the five starters back it figures that more than one of these newcomers will step in and start immediately. Ross Mattson (St. Pau, Minn./Minnehaha Academy) is battling incumbent goalkeeper Andy Cave (Sr./Portland, Ore./Lincoln) for the starting keeper slot. Mattson led his club team to four consecutive top two Minnesota state cup finishes and was a three-time all-conference player for Minnehaha Academy (Minn.). Defenders Aaron Colussi (Madison, Ind.) and Charlie Wood (Lake Forest, Ill.), midfielder and two-time all-state player Nick Feltz (W. Des Moines, Iowa/West Des Moines Valley) and all-state pick Ross Martin (Norwalk, Conn.) also could be major contributors. Hue Chee Yang (Hugo, Minn./St. Paul Central), Robbie Webber (Norwich, Conn./St. Paul's School) and Charlie Mandile (Wayzata, Minn./Blake School) figure prominently into Carlson's planned rotation in 2003.</p> <p>For full preview, visit www.carleton.edu/athletics/msoccer/</p>
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<u>Concordia College</u>		
Head Coach:	Jim Cella (12th season / 100-78-11 overall)	
2002 Record:	3-14-1 (0-10-0 MIAC / 11th)	
Key Returners:	Kris Overby – Sr, GK, Fargo, ND - 2001 MIAC All-Conference Jerry Nathan – Sr, M, Fargo, ND - Led the team in scoring in 2002 Jason VanValkenburg – Sr, M, Fargo, ND - 2002 MIAC All-Conference	


Season Preview:	<p>"No where to go but up." That cliché can be used to sum up the Concordia men's soccer aspirations in 2003. After setting an NCAA record for most losses in a single season by one goal (12), the Cobbers are hoping to turn around their string of bad breaks and get back into the thick of the MIAC race. The inconceivable season of 2002 has been replaced by a renewed optimism in 2003. Concordia returns 23 players from last year's team that lost nine of their ten MIAC games by a single goal. Head Coach Jim Cella is hoping that the year of "lessons learned", and the addition of several newcomers to the squad will provide the right mix to turn last year's sorrow into this season's joy.</p> <p>Defensively, the Cobbers will be led by 2001 MIAC All-Conference goaltender Kris Overby (Fargo, N.Dak./Fargo South HS). Overby, who ranked 20th among NCAA Division III goaltenders in 2001, was unable to put up similar numbers in 2002 due to an inconsistent and inexperienced defense directly in front of him. Overby, and the Cobbers, will benefit from having three of the team's four starting defenders back in 2003. The one spot that Cella will have to fill is the sweepers position which was held by four-year starter, and all-conference performer Cyle Cavett - who was lost to graduation. Three-year starter Dan Ravenhorst (Sr., Hollandale, Minn./Albert Lea HS) will be the rock of the Cobber defense and will be counted on to shut down the best forwards in the MIAC. Joining Ravenhorst will be a pair of sophomores. Tony Eggiman (Moorhead, Minn./Moorhead HS) and Judd Mann (Hastings, Minn./Hastings HS) have a year of experience and will help the Cobbers try and improve on their team goals against average of 1.34 that they posted in 2002.</p> <p>The midfield will feature one of Concordia's best players. Jerry Nathan (Sr./Fargo, N.Dak./Fargo South HS) will be the workhorse for the team in the middle of the field. He led Concordia in scoring last season with four goals. One of the keys for the Cobbers' midfield in 2003 will be the return to health of Jason VanValkenburg (Sr./Fargo N.Dak./Fargo South HS). Van Valkenburg was the team's lone representative on the league's all-conference team last year despite breaking his leg with three games left in the season. Junior Zach Eidenschink (Detroit Lakes, Minn./Detroit Lakes HS) is much-improved from last year and will add an offensive threat from the wing.</p> <p>Up front the Cobbers are still searching for the right mix that will lead to timely goals and a sustained offensive attack. Nick Peterson (So., Fargo, N.Dak./Fargo South HS) tallied nine points in 2002, and will be looking to have a breakout season in 2003. His physical strength and size will help him endure the ups and downs of the trying MIAC season. Cella will have to find a partner for Peterson in order for Concordia to climb to the middle of the MIAC and eventually fight for a spot in the inaugural MIAC playoffs.</p> <p>Concordia will open with five non-conference games before hosting Bethel in the MIAC opener on Septemeber 17. The Cobbers will have to make their mark on the road in the MIAC if they want to climb the league standing chart. The Cobbers will play three of last year's top four league teams on the road. Concordia's first top-four clash will be at Gustavus on September 20. The Cobbers will also play at Macalester (September 30) and St. John's (November 1). The game against St. John's will mark the fifth straight season the two teams have met on the final weekend of the season. Concordia's schedule also features a late October trip to Colorado to take on perennial region powerhouse Colorado College.</p> <p>Concordia is hoping the law of averages will catch up to the team in 2003 and that all the near misses from 2002 will turn into narrow wins.</p> <p>Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This will be the 18th season that Concordia has fielded a men's soccer team. The Cobbers, who fielded a team for the first time in 1986, were the last team in the MIAC to add men's soccer. - Concordia will open the season at the St. John's tournament on August 30-31. It will be the 11th straight season that the Cobbers have played in the SJU tourney. The Cobbers have an overall record of 17-1-2 during the first ten years of the tournament. The lone loss came last year when the were defeated 1-0 by Concordia University (WI). - Kris Overby has started 47 games in his first three seasons at Concordia. He needs nine more starts to break the school record for career starts by a goaltender. That record is held by Chad Anderson who started 55 games from 1993 through 1996. Overby also needs nine shutouts to tie Anderson's career shutout record of 25. - The MIAC will have a four-team playoff at the end of the regular season to determine the league's automatic bid into the NCAA tournament. The MIAC had a similar league playoff system in the late 1970's and early 1980's when all the teams in the conference belonged to the NAIA.
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Gustavus Adolphus College			
Head Coach:	Larry Zelenz (18th season / 212-138-33 overall)		
2002 Record:	12-4-1 (8-2-0 MIAC / 2nd)		

Key Returners:	<p>Caleb Bousu, SO, Forward, Burnsville, MN (Started 16 games last year, 5 goals)</p> <p>Joe Hartwell, JR, Defender, Apple Valley, MN (All-Conference, 1 goal)</p> <p>Ryan Kaufman, SR, Defender, Apple Valley, MN (Played in all 17 games, 2 goals, 3 assists)</p> <p>Bobby Kroog, SO, Midfielder, Bloomington, MN (Honorable mention All-Conference, 3 goals)</p> <p>Elliot-Stewart Franzen, SR, Defender, Minneapolis, MN (Started all 17 games last season)</p> <p>Scott Storlie, SR, Midfielder, St. Louis Park, MN (5 goals, 3 assists)</p>
Season Preview:	<p>Eight starters from last year's 12-4-1 team will be called upon to provide the leadership for the 2003 edition of Gustavus men's soccer. Four qualifiers from last year's NCAA Tournament and an always-challenging MIAC schedule await Head Coach Larry Zelenz's squad this coming fall.</p> <p>Gone from last year are two of the team's top three scorers, all-America pick Adam MacLeod-Roth and all-region selection Eric Carl. The cupboard is far from bare, however, as all-conference back Joe Hartwell and all-conference honorable mention midfielder Bobby Kroog return for their junior and sophomore seasons respectively.</p> <p>Senior midfielder Scott Storlie tied for second on the club a year ago with 13 points. He netted five goals and dished out three assists. Sophomore speedster Caleb Bousu matched Storlie's five-goal total and may emerge as one of the team's most productive offensive weapons.</p> <p>Those starters also returning for Gustavus include senior backs Ryan Kaufman and Elliot Stewart-Franzen and sophomore back Jordan Iblings. The Gusties possess depth at the keeper spot. Junior Andy Moulton saw action in 12 games after taking over for junior Nate Hitch, who was injured two-games into the season before returning for the final contest of the fall.</p> <p>Gustavus will be in search of its second conference title in four years. The Gusties know how important winning the MIAC, which will have a post-season tournament to determine its automatic qualifier for the first time ever this season, is in determining their post-season fate. Last year's 12-4-1 record was the best winning percentage of any Gustavus squad not to be invited to the post-season since 1972.</p> <p>The team begins practicing on August 18. The Gusties open up play at Nebraska Wesleyan on August 29. The home opener is September 6 versus Central.</p> <p>Complete preview can be found at www.gustavus.edu/onthecampus/athletics/news.cfm?view=msc&id=14</p>

Hamline University		
Head Coach:	Andrew Coutts (5th season / 20-43-6 overall)	
2002 Record:	9-8-0 (4-6-0 MIAC / 7th-tie)	
Key Returners:	<p>Spencer Iverson, Sr., F, Maple Grove, Minn. - Started 16 games last season. Second on team in scoring (five goals, three assists, 13 points), three game-winning goals. Named MIAC All-Conference first team in 2001.</p> <p>Aron Romo, Sr, M, Las Vegas, Nev. - Started 16 games last season. First on the team in scoring (6-3-15), one game-winning goal. Named MIAC All-Conference honorable mention in 2002.</p> <p>Derek Vinge, Jr., M, Blaine, Minn. - Started 13 games in '02. 4th on team in scoring (2-1-5), two game-winning goals.</p> <p>Matt Tonjum, Jr., F, Sioux City, Iowa - Third on the team in scoring (3-0-6) last season, one game-winning goal.</p> <p>Graham Plumhoff, Sr, M, Rochester, Minn. - Started 16 games in '02. Tallied one goal and one assist (3 pts).</p> <p>Ben Watkins, So., D, Eau Claire, Wis. - Started 16 games last season. Tallied one goal.</p>	

Season Preview:	<p>In 2002, the Hamline men's soccer team gave a wake up call to the rest of the MIAC, finishing with their first winning season since 1981 and best finish in conference since 1986. This year, the Pipers plan a much ruder awakening.</p> <p>Entering the 2003 campaign, Hamline returns 10 of 11 starters from a team that finished 9-8 overall, 4-6 in conference play.</p> <p>Fifth-year head coach Andy Coutts is pleased with the talent that is returning, but is keeping an even-keel about the prospectus for the upcoming season.</p> <p>"We have to maintain our perspective and realize that 9-8 was good, but we want to do better," Coutts said. "I think they remember some games we could have won. The guys are motivated because we're not satisfied with where we finished last season.</p> <p>Without a senior on the squad last season, the Pipers have four senior leaders this season. Heading the list is senior forward Spencer Iverson, who was named MIAC All-Conference first team last season after scoring three goals and five assists (13 points).</p> <p>Iverson's speed and ball-handling ability made him one of the most feared scorers in the MIAC.</p> <p>"(Iverson)'s a difference maker," Coutts said of the Maple Grove, Minn. product. "He's got a great motor – you can leave him out there for an entire game. He's gives a great effort and his talent is a threat. The other team has to pay attention to him all the time because he's a threat to score."</p> <p>Alongside Iverson is senior midfielder Aron Romo. The Las Vegas, Nev. native was the Pipers' leading scorer last season with six goals and three assists (15 points).</p> <p>The duo scored 11 of the team's 20 goals last season – a number that must improve if the Pipers hope to climb the MIAC standings.</p> <p>The defense will have to help out a first-year starter in goal as last year's starting goalkeeper Brian Lawson will not return to the turn because of personal reasons. Lawson started 16 of 17 games a year ago.</p> <p>Coutts will turn to sophomore goalkeepers Paul Hajny and Nick Agranoff who each had minimal playing time in 2002.</p> <p>Full Season Preview is at: http://www.hamline.edu/cia/athletics/msoccer/outlook.html</p>
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Macalester College		
Head Coach:	John Leaney (17th season / 193-63-29 overall) Ian Barker (1st season as co-head coach)	
2002 Record:	15-5-1 (9-0-1 MIAC / 1st)	
Key Returners:	Nathan Knox (Sr., Christchurch, New Zealand) MF / 2nd-team NSCAA All-America, 2X All-MIAC, 6 g, 6 ast Brendan Viele (Jr., Shoreview, Minn.) F / All-MIAC, 6 goals.	
Season Preview:	<p>Scots Going For Another MIAC Title</p> <p>Macalester is going for its sixth MIAC championship in seven years after shutting out all ten of its league opponents last year en route to a 15-5-1 overall and first-place 9-0-1 conference record. The Scots did this as one of the MIAC's youngest teams and now with nearly the entire lineup returning, a serious run for another MIAC title is expected from the veteran team under 17th-year head coach John Leaney.</p> <p>The Scots want a third straight MIAC title and another shot in the NCAA Division III playoffs after moving into the national quarter-final round in 2002. Last year Macalester won penalty kick playoff shootouts over Nebraska Wesleyan and Wisconsin-Whitewater before getting eliminated on a 1-0 defeat to No. 1 ranked Trinity (Tex.).</p> <p>Tyler Morken-Simmers has been waiting in the wings and is ready to take over the goalkeeper duties from all-region keeper Michael Madigan, who was second in the nation in goals against average. Nathan Knox became the program's eighth All-America player last year after scoring six goals and assisting on six others and returns as one of the nation's most skilled players. He's one of Mac's best players ever. Knox will get goal-scoring help from All-MIAC forward Brendan Viele, who also netted six goals last season.</p> <p>Full Season Preview is at: www.macalester.edu/athletics/team_pages/soccer/news/062303_prev.html</p>	

Saint John's University		
Head Coach:	Pat Haws (26th season / 269-100-38 career record)	
2002 Record:	12-4-2 overall (6-2-2 MIAC / 3rd-tie)	
Key Returners:	Tyler Bosch, Jr., Forward, Fargo, N.D. - 7 g, 7 a, 21 pts.; All-MIAC and NSCAA/ '02 adidas All-West Region 3rd team Thoralf Knoll, Jr., Defenseman, Berlin, Germany - 0 g, 1 a, 1 pt.; All-MIAC hon. mention in 2002 Joe Schmidt, Sr., Forward, Mendota Heights - 2 g, 1 a, 5 pts.; All-MIAC hon. mention in '02 and All-MIAC in '01 Andy Witchger, Jr., Forward, Edina - 6 g, 2 a, 14 pts.; All-MIAC hon. mention in 2001 Eric Prawalsky, Jr., Goalkeeper, Minneapolis - 11-2-2, 0.76 gaa Matt Haws, Jr., Defenseman, Fergus Falls - 1 g, 2 a, 4 pts.	
Season Preview:	After three consecutive seasons with at least 12 wins and a top-three finish in the MIAC standings, the Saint John's University soccer team is excited for the 2003 season. The 2002 SJU soccer team finished the season with a 12-4-2 overall record, 6-2-2 MIAC record and a third place finish in the MIAC. SJU began the season with its best start since 1986 by winning its first seven matches and being ranked eighth nationally. The top returning players for the Johnnies this fall are junior forward Tyler Bosch, Fargo, N.D.; junior defenseman Thoralf Knoll, Berlin, Germany; senior forward Joe Schmidt, Mendota Heights; junior forward Andy Witchger, Edina; junior goalkeeper Eric Prawalsky, Minneapolis; and junior defenseman Matt Haws, Fergus Falls. Bosch led the team with 21 points (seven goals and seven assists) last year, was named All-MIAC and to the NSCAA/adidas All-West Region third team. Knoll and Schmidt received 2002 All-MIAC Honorable Mention honors. Schmidt was an All-MIAC selection in 2001 and has 14 goals and 10 assists in his career. Witchger was an All-MIAC Honorable Mention selection in 2001. Prawalsky was 11-2-2 in 16 matches last year with a 0.76 goals against average with three shut outs to his credit. SJU's complete 2003 soccer season preview can be found at gojohnnies.com/soccer/03preview.html	

Saint Mary's University		
Head Coach:	Eric Luzzi (3rd season / 14-19-3 overall)	
2002 Record:	8-8-2 overall (5-4-1 MIAC / 5th)	
Key Returners:	<p>Mike Boland (So., Forward, Lake Zurich, Ill. / All-MIAC first team / 11 goals, 3 assists, 25 points / 7 MIAC goals ranked No. 1, 16 MIAC points ranked No. 2)</p> <p>Mike Lackey (Sr., Mid., Perryton, Texas / All-MIAC first team / 1 goal, 2 assists, 4 points)</p> <p>Brian Reddish (So., Mid., Crystal Lake, Ill. / 6 goals, 6 assists, 18 points)</p> <p>Mike Lardner (Sr., Mid., St. Joseph, Mich. / 2 goals, 1 assist, 6 points)</p> <p>Bob Endemann (Jr., GK, Woodridge, Ill. / 17 GP, 26 GA, 1.55 GAA, 77 saves, 8-7-2)</p>	

Season Preview:	<p>In each of the first two years that Eric Luzzi has been at the helm for the Saint Mary's University men's soccer team, a conference title was always the Cardinals No. 1 priority.</p> <p>After all, in order to receive an automatic invitation to the NCAA national tournament, the Cardinals had to be wearing the MIAC crown.</p> <p>This season, the Cardinals' — and Luzzi's — priorities have shifted a bit.</p> <p>For starters, a top four MIAC regular-season finish would do nicely.</p> <p>Don't take that as a sign of mediocrity — in fact, this year's SMU team could very well be Luzzi's best yet, and a conference title is definitely not out of the question.</p> <p>It's just that automatic NCAA berth thing. This year, the MIAC's regular-season champ doesn't get a free national-tournament ride. That designation goes to the champion of the MIAC's inaugural post-season tournament.</p> <p>With a squad that returns First-Team All-MIAC performers Mike Boland (11 goals, 3 assists, 25 points) and Mike Lackey (1 goal, 2 assists) — not to mention starting goaltender Bob Endemann (17 GP, 26 GA, 1.55 GAA, 77 saves, 8-7-2) and seven others who started at least 14 games for the 8-8-2 Cardinals — an invitation to the MIAC's post-season dance certainly isn't out of the question.</p> <p>Nor is a regular-season or post-season conference title.</p> <p>Complete SMU men's soccer preview: http://sports.smumn.edu/m_soccer/2003/newsletter/mspreview.html</p>
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St. Olaf College	
Head Coach:	Kurt Anderson (15th season)
2002 Record:	8-8-2 (4-5-1 MIAC / 6th)
Key Returners:	<p>Faiz Abdiraham</p> <p>Abel Bromley</p> <p>Mustafa Dualeh</p> <p>Chris Gangl</p> <p>Mark Gilmer</p>
Season Preview:	<p>The 2003 edition of the Oles are looking forward to a fast start this season. A solid core of returnees along with some talented new comers will help lead this team.</p> <p>The team lost three time All-MIAC selection Ben Clymer and the teams leading scorer, but look to the returning players and first year players to make a strong contribution this fall.</p> <p>Up front, the Oles are led by defender turned forward, Tobias Gopon (Sr. Koehler, Wis.) The trio of Faiz Abdirahman (So., Rochester, Minn.), Abel Bromley (Jr., Sandy Point, Utah) and Mustafa Dualeh (So, Rochester, Minn.) will lead the scoring pack for the Oles.</p> <p>In the midfield, the Oles return four year starter and all-conference player Chris Gangl (Sr., Lakeville, Minn.). Gangl will depend on help from teammates Trevor Davies (Jr., Waukesha, Wis.) Ryan Franz (So, Rochester, Minn.), Brian Lande (Sr., Muscatine, Iowa) and four year starter Mark Gilmer (Sr., Bloomington, Minn.).</p> <p>The backfield will depend on starter Eric Steege (Sr., Winona Grove, Wis.) and Matt Osborne (Jr., St. Paul, Minn.). Two transfer students Andrew Gastineau (FY, Rochester, Minn.) and Mike Prendergast should see much playing time in the backfield.</p> <p>The Oles are counting on second year returning goalie Kyle Trimble (Jr., White Fish Bay, Wis.) to continue between the pipes. The Oles are excited about first year students Abu Farah (Rochester, Minn.), Brian Kehoe (So., Johnson Creek, Wis.) and Mike Peabody (Whitewater, Wis.) to lend their skills to the men's soccer team. By the end of pre-season, the new blended team should be ready for the tough fall schedule ahead.</p>

University of St. Thomas		
Head Coach:	Aaron Macke (2nd season, 10-4-3 overall)	
2002 Record:	10-4-3 overall (6-2-2 MIAC / 3rd-tie)	
Key Returners:	Matt Raplinger, SR, MF, Kansas City, Kan. (2X first team All-MIAC; 2X 3rd - Team All-Region; Career: 13g, 3a) Kyle Hale, SR, Def., Minnetonka (3-year starter)	
Season Preview:	<p>The Tommies will look to continue their climb up the conference standings. Under first-year head coach Aaron Macke, the 2002 Tommies went 5-0-1 in their last six games to close with a 10-4-3 record. It was St. Thomas' 28th top-five MIAC finish in the last 31 seasons.</p> <p>The 2002 Tommies had nine shutouts and allowed just 11 goals in 17 games -- compared to a per-season average of 26.5 goals allowed the previous four seasons (1998-2001)</p> <p>Macke graduated eight seniors, including three-year goalie starter Will Loepfe. This year's team will feature newcomers occupying more than half of the roster spots. In an unexpected loss, junior midfielder Mike Heitzman, a two-time HM All-MIAC honoree, will miss the season with a knee injury.</p> <p>Senior defender Matt Raplinger is on pace to become a three-time first team all-conference honoree. Raplinger will be a co-captain along with another returning all-conference honoree, senior defender Kyle Hale.</p> <p>The Tommies open Sept. 6-7 with home non-conference games vs. Coe (Iowa) and Carroll (Wis.). Their first conference game is Sept. 17 at home vs. Carleton.</p>	

2002 MIAC Men's Soccer Links- Standings, Results, Awards, Final Stats, Players of the Week, Season Preview
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