

2004 MIAC MEN'S SOCCER PREVIEW


The 2004 MIAC men's soccer season gets underway with non-conference games beginning September 1. MIAC conference play begins September 15. Last year's regular season MIAC Champion Macalester College looks to be the favorite going into the season. The Scots compiled an 8-0-2 conference record (12-6-2 overall) in 2003 and won their sixth conference championship in the past seven seasons. Macalester returns nine starters from a team that has won the past three conference regular season titles.

Playoff Champion Gustavus, ranked 18th in the 2004 NSCAA Div. III preseason poll, won the MIAC's first playoff championship and received the automatic bid to the NCAA tournament. The Gusties looks to be in the hunt again as it returns eight starters to a team that advanced to the second round of the NCAA tournament and finished the season 16-1-5 overall.

Saint John's, who finished third in the conference looks to challenge for the conference title as well. The Johnnies are coming off of their fifth consecutive double-digit win season and return several key players.


Augsburg, Bethel, and Concordia welcome new head coaches into their programs this season. Augsburg brought in Greg Holker, former MIAC All-Conference player from Gustavus and head coach at Academy of Holy Angels. Bethel returns former Royals star Joel Johnson to the program. Johnson coached the Bethel women for one season in 1998 and has been an assistant women's hockey coach at the Univ. of Minnesota from 1998-2004. Concordia hired Joe Larson to take over the Cobbers program and replace long time coach Jim Cella.


The top four teams in the conference will qualify for the MIAC playoffs and the winner will receive the MIAC's automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament. Semifinal play begins on November 2 with the championship scheduled for November 6.

Augsburg College		
Head Coach:	Greg Holker (1st season / 0-0-0 overall)	
2004 Record:	5-11-2 (0-9-1 MIAC / 11th)	
Key Returners:	<p>Aaron Riedel (MF, Jr., Minneapolis, Minn./South HS), All-MIAC first team in 2003; team's leading scorer in 2003 (9G-4A--22P); career totals of 16G-10A--42P in 35 games.</p> <p>Mike Elcano (F, Sr., Sparks, Nev./Bishop Manogue HS), All-MIAC honorable mention in 2002; second on team in scoring in 2003 (6G-4A--16P), despite missing 6 games due to injury; career totals of 21G-11A--53P in 46 games.</p> <p>Lucas Grant (GK, Sr., Starbuck, Minn./Minnewaska Area HS), team's primary goalkeeper in 2003, 5-10-1 record with 2.11 GAA and 98 saves; 3 shutouts in 2003; also played in 5 games in 2001; career total of 2.17 GAA.</p> <p>Vinnie Brooks (MF, So., Maple Grove, Minn./Osseo HS), appeared in all 18 games on defense in 2003.</p> <p>Geoff Johnson (D, Jr., Blaine, Minn.), 2-year starter on defense; has appeared in 35 games in career.</p>	


Season Preview:	<p>New coach. New players. New turf. New attitude.</p> <p>There's a lot of "new" surrounding the Augsburg College men's soccer team in 2004. And that could result in a new level of success.</p> <p>"The program will be totally different, completely changed," said new Augsburg head coach Greg Holker, who was hired in March to replace Mike Navarre, who resigned after five seasons to concentrate on coaching the Augsburg women's soccer team.</p> <p>Holker comes to Augsburg with plenty of experience with soccer in the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference. He was an all-conference and all-region midfielder at Gustavus Adolphus College, and spent two seasons (2000-01) as an assistant coach for the Gusties before becoming a head coach at the high school level. He earned state Coach of the Year honors in 2003 after leading the Holy Angels high school program to a 13-4-2 record, a seven-win improvement over the previous year.</p> <p>Holker hit the ground running with the Auggies, setting some ambitious long-term goals for the program. He wants to increase the numbers and talent in the program, eventually establishing a junior varsity squad in 2005. He also has set specific win goals for the next four years, moving from last season's 5-11-2 overall record to at least 10 wins each of the next three years, while aiming for the MIAC title and a berth in the four-team conference postseason playoffs.</p> <p>For a program that has not won more than seven games in a single season since 1980, the goals may seem overly ambitious. However, to Holker, the goals will provide a needed kick-start to a return to prominence for Auggie men's soccer in the MIAC.</p> <p><u>Reidel, Elcano, Grant are key returners</u> Seven starters return from last season's lineup, but Holker admits that many of them will face a tough test to return to the starting lineup this season. Two of the key returners will be midfielder Aaron Riedel (Jr., Minneapolis, Minn./South HS) and forward Mike Elcano (Jr., Sparks, Nev./Bishop Manogue HS).</p> <p><u>Talented recruiting class</u> Holker has already been an aggressive recruiter in his short time with the Auggies, and the results have already paid off. Two key transfers and three all-state players will be expected to make immediate impacts on the Auggie program, along with several other incoming freshmen and newcomers.</p> <p><u>New turf provides boost to program</u> Augsburg will have a new surface to play on this season. After utilizing Astroturf artificial-turf surfaces since Edor Nelson Field was built in 1984, the college installed a new Sprinturf "next-generation" surface during the summer. The surface, with long grass-like fibers and a rubber-sand infill base, is much more soccer-friendly and will provide a boost to the soccer program, Holker said.</p> <p><u>Complete Preview</u></p>
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Bethel College	
Head Coach: Joel Johnson (1st season / 0-0-0 overall)	
2004 Record: 6-10-1 (1-8-1 MIAC / 10th)	
Key Returners:	<p>Ryan McKellips, Junior, Forward, 5 goals, 3 assists</p> <p>Matt Johnson, Senior, Midfield, 5 goals, 1 assist</p> <p>Eric Berg, Senior, Goalkeeper, 4-year starter</p>
Season Preview:	<p>The 2003 Royals campaign was a tale of two halves. The team started the year by going 6-3-1 in their first nine games before dropping their final seven, five of which were decided by one goal.</p> <p>This is a new year with a new team, a new coach, and even a new school name. As of July 1st, Bethel College became Bethel University. Along with a new name, the school got its first ever full-time head coach in Joel Johnson. Johnson, a two-time all-conference selection for the Royals in the mid 90's, has served as an assistant coach for the University of Minnesota women's hockey program since 2000 and helped lead the Gophers to a national championship this last spring.</p> <p>In addition to a new head coach, the Royals return their top seven scorers, their starting forwards and midfield, and senior goalkeeper Eric Berg, who has been a starter since the day he arrived at Bethel. The biggest question mark will be in the defensive corps where the Royals graduated sweeper Brent Schiestl and outside backs Ryan Dorn and Doug Wester. Juniors Peter Halvorson and Tyler Murchie will be called upon to fill their void and provide leadership to the pack.</p>

Carleton College		
Head Coach:	Bob Carlson (8th season/ 62-51-12 overall)	
2004 Record:	11-7-0 (5-5-0 MIAC / 6th)	
Key Returners:	<p>David Watson, Jr., MF, Two-time All-MIAC (2002, 2003), led MIAC in scoring with 17 pts in 2002, 6 g, 10 a, 22 pts, in 2003, 13 g, 17 a, 43 pts in career</p> <p>Yemi Adegunju, Sr., F, All-MIAC first team in 2003, 8 g, 3 a, 19 pts in 2003, 16 goals in career</p> <p>Kurt Bunnelle, Jr., D, started all 18 games in 2003</p> <p>Nick Feltz, So., F, 8 g, 5 a, 21 pts in 2003, team-high 3 game-winning goals</p>	
Season Preview:	<p>Fresh off a 2003 campaign in which they posted a school-record 11 victories, Carleton College head coach Bob Carlson finds many pieces returning from last year, but not quite sure how everything will fit together in 2004.</p> <p>Headlining the returnees are a pair of all-conference players in Yemi Adegunju (Winnipeg, Manitoba/Vincent Massey Collegiate) and two-time selection David Watson (Jr./Woodbury, Minn.). The gifted offensive duo will help offset the loss of five starters from last year's team.</p> <p>Six starters in all return for Carleton this season, including junior Kurt Bunnelle and sophomore Nick Feltz. Sophomore defender Charlie Wood started all but one game last year and junior Liam Reilly is back as well. Goalkeeper Ross Mattson returns after starting part-time and posting a pair of shutouts in his rookie season.</p> <p>The Knights, who've posted four consecutive winning seasons for the first time in more than 30 years, will have their work cut out for them to stretch the streak to five seasons. They face the most rigorous non-conference schedule in school history, according to Carlson, and the perennial difficult MIAC slate awaits them as well.</p> <p>The eighth-year head man for the Knights hopes to use the pre-conference challenges to ready his charges for the 10-game MIAC slate. With no less than nine players on the Knights' 2004 roster being either newcomers, returning from injury or coming back from study abroad, Carlson and the Knights face a mighty task.</p> <p>Rather than focus on things like making the MIAC Playoffs or matching or surpassing last year's win total, the team has chosen to focus instead on the process. "We want to play with confidence and to play without excuses," Carlson said. "The team is stressing qualitative goals, not quantitative ones."</p> <p>The MIAC is a bear, according to Carlson. "No team can't take a night off – if you do, you'll lose," he said. "But if a team plays their best game, anyone has a chance."</p> <p>Carlson welcomes what he called a blend of youth and experience to pre-season camp. He expects returning veterans like seniors Win Hornig (Wayzata, Minn.), Graham Hough-Cornwell (Lexington, Ky./Henry Clay) and Andrew Huffer (Boulder, Colo.) to be contributors. Peter Grassman, a newcomer out of Evanston, Ill., should see some time as well. Essentially every spot is up for grabs, Carlson said, including a good fight for the keeper slot between Mattson and junior Brian Aleinikoff (Denver/Univ. of Denver).</p> <p>Carlson is excited about the two new additions to his coaching staff, as assistant Chris Vorenkamp and keeper coach Keith Wolter join the staff. Vorenkamp, a former All-American at Division III power Ohio Wesleyan University, helped lead the Battling Bishops to NCAA Tournament berths each of his four years. He's currently a member of the USL's A-League Minnesota Thunder professional team. Wolter, a 2003 graduate of Carleton and three-year letterwinner for the Knights, was a starter his senior year and posted three shutouts and a 1.34 goals-against average.</p> <p>Complete Carleton preview can be found through this link</p>	

Concordia College		
Head Coach:	Damian Koshnick (1st season / 0-0-0 overall)	
2004 Record:		
Key Returners:	<p>Sylvester Ndhlovu (Forward) 3-year starter; 4th on the team in scoring in '04</p> <p>Kevin Quimby (Midfielder) 2-year starter; 5th on the team in scoring in '04</p> <p>Matt Klein (Midfielder) played in all 18 games as a freshman in '04</p>	


Season Preview:	<p>Concordia men's soccer first-year head coach Damian Koshnick knows that he has his work cut out for him if he wants to bring the Cobbers back to the top of the MIAC. He understands the fact that his first year, or two, will be spent building a foundation for the future. Hopefully for Koshnick and the rest of the Concordia men's soccer team, they will build a strong enough base that will support a state-of-the-art skyscraper that will reach all the way to the top of the MIAC and into the NCAA tournament.</p> <p>Koshnick became the third head coach for Concordia in the past three seasons when he took over the position in the early part of the summer. The program has seen the coaching carousel take its toll on the team and Koshnick is eager to put stability back into the once-proud program. He brings with him an intense passion for the game and the ability to teach student/athletes at the college level. Besides his coaching duties for Concordia, he also teaches in the English Department at the college. Koshnick will need to use every teaching trick that he has learned over the years as he inherits a team that is made up of 11 freshman, 8 sophomores, two juniors and three seniors.</p> <p>Several candidates could step into the role of filling the net for the Cobbers. Sylvester Ndhlovu is a three-year starter for Concordia and has always shown the knack for getting quality chances around the goal. He was the team's fourth leading scorer in 2004. He will look for help from Kevin Quimby and Matt Klein. The diminutive Quimby, who plays a foot above his listed height of 5-3, has been one of the most dangerous players for Concordia the past two years. Although not a prototype goal scorer, he has the capability to break down a defense and set up chances for himself and his teammates. Klein played in all 18 games for the Cobbers in 2004 as a freshman and finished tied for second on the team in scoring.</p> <p>The midfield should feature several newcomers battling for positions. The one constant from last year will be Caleb Husmann. Husmann transferred to Concordia at the beginning of the 2004 season from NCAA Division II West Virginia Wesleyan, and will be aided by a year's worth of experience in the tough and physical MIAC. Quimby will figure in the mix as his brand of playmaking skills will be an anchor for the team's transitional game.</p> <p>Two of the three seniors will play a pivotal role in securing the Concordia defense. Judd Mann, a three-year starter, has the basic skills and work ethic to be one of the top players in the league. He will have to overcome his tendency to lose concentration if the Cobbers will have a defense that can be consistent for a full game. Joining Mann in the back will be Jeff Ottmar. Ottmar has been bounced around from defense to midfield to forward and back again. His 6-6, 195 lb frame makes him an imposing figure on the field as he looks to have a breakout season.</p> <p>Another quality addition to the Cobber attack will be the play of Gennadiy Patselov. Patselov was one of the top players in North Dakota the last two seasons as he starred for the 2003 state champion Fargo North (N.D.) Spartans.</p> <p>The goalkeeping job looks to be a three-player race. Sophomores Brett Oestreich and Dustin Pattengale have been impressive in the early part of the preseason. Neither player logged a single minute of playing time last season and will have to overcome the nerves of seeing their first college experience. Joining Oestreich and Pattengale is freshman Brandon Teets.</p> <p>For a more detailed preview go to: www.cord.edu/dept/sports/fall/ms/preview</p>
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<u>Gustavus Adolphus College</u>		
Head Coach:	Larry Zelenz (19th season / 228-139-38 overall)	
2004 Record:	16-1-5 (6-1-3 MIAC / 2nd-tie)	
Key Returners:	<p>Bobby Kroog, JR, Midfielder, Bloomington, MN (2nd Team All-America, 1st Team All-Region, All-Conf., 15 goals)</p> <p>Joe Hartwell, SR, Defender, Apple Valley, MN (3rd Team All-Region, All-MIAC)</p> <p>Caleb Bousu, JR, Forward, Burnsville, MN (Honorable Mention All-MIAC, 7 goals)</p> <p>Andy Moulton, SR, Goalkeeper, St. Peter, MN (Started 14 games, NCAA Div. III Goals Against Average Title, 0.205)</p>	


Season Preview:	<p>The Gustavus Adolphus College men's soccer team enters the 2004 season with high expectations. Head Coach Larry Zelenz returns eight starters from last year's squad that won the inaugural MIAC Tournament and advanced to the second round of the NCAA Tournament. The Gusties ended the year ranked 18th in the nation by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA) with an overall record of 16-1-5 and a conference record of 6-1-3.</p> <p>Key returnees for Coach Larry Zelenz's squad are all-America, all-region and all-conference selection Bobby Kroog (Junior, Bloomington, Minn.), all-region and all-conference pick Joe Hartwell (Senior, Apple Valley, Minn.) and honorable-mention all-conference selection Caleb Bousu (Junior, Burnsville, Minn.). Kroog led the Gusties with 15 goals and one assist for 31 points last season. The central midfielder netted eight game-winning goals in the 2003 campaign. Hartwell anchored the left-flank playing both the back and midfield positions. The 2004 co-captain netted two goals and assisted on two others for a total of six points in 2003. Bousu, who contributed seven goals and five assists, finished second on the team in points with 19.</p> <p>Others returning for Gustavus include forward Taylor Stein (Senior, Minneapolis, Minn.), midfielders Jordan Iblings (Junior, Plymouth, Minn.) and Jonathan Astry (Junior, Eden Prairie, Minn.) and back Grant Morlock (Junior, Moorhead, Minn.). All four played in every game for the Gusties last season. The Gusties also possess depth at the keeper spot. Andy Moulton (Senior, St. Peter, Minn.) appeared in 14 matches, allowing only three goals for a 0.205 goals against average, which earned him the NCAA Division III individual goals against average title. Moulton will also co-captain the 2004 team. Nate Hitch (Senior, Lakeville, Minn.) appeared in 10 matches for the Gusties also allowing just three goals for a 0.35 goals against average. In 2003, Moulton and Hitch helped the team set a school record for shutouts in a season with 17.</p> <p>With the addition of an impressive recruiting class, Coach Zelenz's squad will have its sights set on another successful season. Gustavus will be in search of its second regular season title and its third NCAA appearance in five years. The team began pre-season training on August 18th. The Gusties open play at Viterbo University on September 1st. The home opener is September 11th versus Loras College.</p>
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Hamline University	
Head Coach:	
2004 Record:	
Key Returners:	<p>Alex Morawiecki, Jr, M, 6-0, 165, Winona, Minn. - Started 13 games last season. Tallied two assists in 2003.</p> <p>Andrew Helling, Jr, M, 6-0, 165, Brookings, S.D. - Started 17 games last season. Scored one goal and three assists last season.</p> <p>Alex Kirkendoll, So., F, 6-1, 180, Madison, Wis. (Madison West) - Started 12 games last season. Second on the team in scoring with five goals and five assists.</p> <p>Derek Vinge, Sr, M, 5-11, 175, Blaine, Minn. (Wayzata) - Started 12 games last season. Scored one goal and three assists last season.</p> <p>Ben Watkins, Jr, D, 6-1, 185, Eau Claire, Wis. (Memorial) - Started 17 games last season. Scored two goals last season. Two-year starter at defense.</p> <p>Micah Merritt, Jr, D, 5-9, 150, Brookings, S.D. - Started 18 games last season. Two-year starter at defense.</p>


Season Preview:	<p>A year after sporting a pair of All-MIAC first team selections, the Hamline men's soccer team will have a much different look. The Pipers, who went 7-8-3, 3-5-2 in the MIAC, will no longer rely on the playmaking capabilities of Aron Romo and Spencer Iverson, instead opting for a more balanced attack.</p> <p>Offensively, the Pipers must replace half of their 24 goals from a year ago. Coutts believes moving junior Jacob Helling (Brookings, S.D.) from defense to forward will add scoring punch. Joining him will be sophomore Alex Kirkendoll (Madison, Wis.), who tallied five goals and five assists (15 points) in his first season and senior Matt Tonjum (Sioux City, Iowa)</p> <p>Midfield remains the Pipers' deepest position. Seniors Derek Vinge (Blaine, Minn.) and juniors Andrew Helling (Brookings, S.D.) and Alex Morawiecki (Winona, Minn.) all have multiple years of starting experience. Vinge and Helling each scored a goal and three assists last season. Morawiecki added a pair of assists. Coutts expects junior midfielder Tony Vang (St. Paul, Minn.) to have a big season as an attacking midfielder.</p> <p>Two-year starters Ben Watkins (Eau Claire, Wis.) and Micah Merritt (Brookings, S.D.) anchor the Pipers' defense. With Helling moving to forward, that leaves a spot open for junior Fred Macalus (White Bear Lake, Minn.).</p> <p>"What the personnel gives us is more flexibility than what we had last year, to try and play different formations and different systems," Coutts said. "We will be able to adapt to whomever we are playing, or we can make it more difficult for other teams to deal with us."</p> <p>At goalkeeper, Hamline must find a clear-cut No. 1 starter. Last season, the team struggled before Paul Hajny (Hamel, Minn.) emerged as the starter, going 3-0-2 in the team's last five games, including shutout ties against conference foes Gustavus and St. Mary's. Hajny finished the season with a 0.72 goals against average and .855 save percentage.</p> <p>This season, Hajny returns as well as first-years Drew Lueders (Rochester, Minn.) and Andrew Clement (Victoria, Minn.).</p>
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Macalester College		
Head Coach:	John Leaney (18th season / 214-76-33 overall) Ian Barker (3rd season as co-head coach / 21-13-4 overall)	
2004 Record:		
Key Returners:	Andrew Wissler (Sr., MF, Annandale, Va. / Woodson) – All-MIAC, 4 goals, 5 assists Magnus Oppenheimer (Jr., MF, Stockholm, Sweden / Viktor Rydberg) – All-MIAC, 4 goals Devin Homme (Sr., D, Minneapolis, Minn. / South)	
Season Preview:	<p>Macalester posted its 18th straight winning season a year ago and despite some key graduation losses are primed to challenge for the conference title, as it usually does. The Scots are going for their ninth MIAC championship. After falling short in a bid for their fourth title in a row last fall, look for the team to show a renewed determination in '05. First, Macalester must replace one of its deepest senior classes ever, a group which was made up of numerous three- and four-year starters. Co-coaches Ian Barker and John Leaney must replace graduated veterans like all-region pick Mike Dannenberg, Patrick Kelly, Robb Swick, Stuart Peacock, Brendan Viele, Eric Nordstrum and Tom Kleczewski.</p> <p>Macalester has some skilled players to build around like all-conference midfielders Andrew Wissler (Sr., Annandale, Va. / W.T. Woodson) and Magnus Oppenheimer (Jr., Stockholm, Sweden / Viktor Rydberg). Barker and Leaney will ask these two to carry a heavy leadership role following the loss of last year's deep senior class. Wissler and Oppenheimer were two of the team's goal-scoring leaders last season with four markers, while Wissler contributed five assists. They have the ability to be a pair of the MIAC's top players this year.</p> <p>The Scots will look to increase their goal production and are seeking some scoring punch from the likes of Oppenheimer, Wissler, Michael Blythe (Jr., Stillwater, Minn.), Adric Mueller (Jr., Madison, Wis. / West), Joe Wertz (Sr., St. Paul, Minn. / St. Paul Academy), Eddie Powers (Sr., Lincoln, Neb. / Southeast) and Grant Stegner (So., Edina, Minn.). Blythe netted four goals last year, while Wertz added three after scoring nine the year before.</p> <p>Defensively, the Scots should be in good shape led by veteran defenders and midfielders like Ian Ritz (Sr., Ames, Ia.), Devin Homme (Sr., Minneapolis, Minn. / South) and Michael Melamed (Sr., Gilbert, Ariz. / Mesquite).</p> <p>"The team was disappointed in their record last year," commented Coach Barker, "but there is a lot of enthusiasm for this season. This team has a lot of potential."</p>	


Saint John's University		
Head Coach:	Pat Haws (28th season / 291-110-41 overall)	
2004 Record:		
Key Returners:	<p>Andy Witchger, Sr., forward, Edina - 7 g, 11 a, 15 pts.; All-MIAC in 2003, 27th nationally at 0.61 assists per game, tied for the conference lead with four assists and tied for third with 12 points in 10 MIAC matches, All-MIAC honorable mention in 2001.</p> <p>Tyler Bosch, Sr., forward, Fargo, N.D. - 9 g, 5 a, 23 pts.; All-MIAC honorable mention in 2003, All-MIAC and NSCAA/adidas All-West Region third team in 2002</p> <p>Eric Prawalsky, Sr., goalkeeper, Minneapolis - 11-4-3, 0.92 gaa; All-MIAC honorable mention in 2003</p> <p>Matt Haws, Sr., defender, Fergus Falls - 1 g, 1 a, 3 pts.; All-MIAC honorable mention in 2003</p> <p>Thoralf Knoll, Sr., defender, Berlin, Germany - 1 g, 1 a, 3 pts; All-MIAC honorable mention in 2002.</p> <p>Mike Zacheretti, Sr., defender, Farmington - 0 g, 2 a, 2 pts.</p>	
Season Preview:	<p>After four consecutive consecutive double-digit win seasons and four consecutive top-three finishes in the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference standings, the Saint John's University soccer team is excited for the upcoming 2004 season.</p> <p>The Johnnies ended their 2003 season with an 11-4-3 overall record, 7-2-1 record in the MIAC and tied for second place in the final conference standings. The Johnnies qualified for the first-ever MIAC playoff tournament.</p> <p>The top returning seniors for the Johnnies this fall are forward Andy Witchger (Edina, Minn.), forward Tyler Bosch (Fargo, N.D./Shanley), goalkeeper Eric Prawalsky (Minneapolis, Minn./South), defender Thoralf Knoll (Berlin, Germany/Werner-Seelenbinder Schule), defender Matt Haws (Fergus Falls, Minn.) and defender Michael Zacheretti (Farmington, Minn./Eastview). Forward Craig Hieserich (Cottage Grove, Minn./Park) will be studying overseas this fall and will not be with the team.</p> <p>Witchger had seven goals and 11 assists for 25 points and earned All-MIAC honors in 2003. The 0.61 assists per game by Witchger was 27th nationally. In MIAC play, Witchger tied for the conference lead with four assists and tied for third with 12 points in 10 matches. Bosch, Haws and Prawalsky each earned Honorable Mention All-MIAC honors in 2003. Bosch tied for seventh in the MIAC with 11 points and had nine goals and five assists overall for 23 points. Collectively, Witchger and Bosch scored 48 of SJU's 114 points last season. Prawalsky was 11-4-3 overall with a 0.92 goals against average and seven shut outs last season.</p> <p>Bosch was named All-MIAC and to the NSCAA/adidas All-West Region third team in 2002. Knoll received 2002 Honorable Mention All-MIAC honors. Witchger was an Honorable Mention All-MIAC selection as a freshman in 2001. Bosch and Witchger are eighth and 15th on the all-time SJU career points list at 58 (19 goals and 20 assists) and 50 (17 goals and 16 assists), respectively.</p> <p>SJU's complete 2004 soccer season preview can be found at http://gojohnnies.com/soccer/04preview.html</p>	

<u>Saint Mary's University</u>		
Head Coach:	Eric Luzzi (5th season / 21-39-8 overall)	
2004 Record:		
Key Returners:	Mike Schmitt (Jr., Mid., Woodridge, Ill. / Downers Grove North) 16 GP, 5 goals, 11 points – both team highs Michael Boland (Sr., For., Lake Zurich, Ill. / Carmel) 16 GP, 1 goal,, 2 assists, 4 points Jeff Kunick (Sr., Def., Eau Claire, Wis. / Eau Claire North) 16 GP, 1 assist	

Season Preview:	<p>Eric Luzzi isn't going to deny it — he wants to see his Saint Mary's University men's soccer team playing soccer in early November — as one of the four teams in the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference post-season tournament.</p> <p>But, the Cardinals' head coach admits, that goal isn't what's driving his team this year.</p> <p>Rather than focusing on the future, Luzzi and the Cardinals are living in the present.</p> <p>"It's been a little different atmosphere thus far," Luzzi said. "We have not had one discussion — no one's even thought about — where we want to be at the end of the season."</p> <p>"We have a lot to prove — to ourselves, to the school, to the MIAC," said Luzzi, whose Cardinals struggled to a 3-10-3 overall record a year ago. "We were not a great team last year, but we were better than three wins. The year before, we managed (four) wins — and we were definitely better than that.</p> <p>"It's time for us to start living up to our potential."</p> <p>Complete SMU men's soccer preview: http://sports.smumn.edu/m_soccer/2005/newsletter/mspreview.html</p>
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<u>St. Olaf College</u>		
Head Coach:	Kurt Anderson (16th season / 153-102-16 overall)	
2004 Record:	7-9-2 (6-4-0 MIAC / 5th)	
Key Returners:	Faiz Abdirahmen , F, Jr., Rochester, Minn./Mayo - All-MIAC... led MIAC in goals (8) in conf. play... had 9 goals overall, 4 game winners Kyle Trimble , GK, Sr., Milwaukee, Wis./Whitefish Bay - six shutouts in conf. play last year Matt Osborne , D, Sr., St. Paul, Minn./Highland Park - captain, four-year starter	

Season Preview:	<p>The St. Olaf men's soccer team enters the 2004 season with 17 of 24 players returning, including seven that have starting experience, in hopes of reaching the MIAC playoffs in November for 15th year head coach Kurt Anderson - a feat the Oles were just one game away from in last year's conference race.</p> <p>Anderson has quite a nucleus back, including the MIAC's leading scorer from 2003 Faiz Abdirahman (Jr., Rochester, Minn./Mayo). Abdirahman's sophomore campaign touted nine goals, four game winners and a hat trick (10/28/03 vs. Augsburg) earning him All-MIAC recognition for the first time in his career.</p> <p>Anderson knows it will not be so easy this year for Abdirahman. "He [Abdirahmen] is certainly going to get much more attention this year," said Anderson. "If someone else can score, it will take some pressure off him."</p> <p>Additional scoring presence could come from junior Mustafa Dualeh (Rochester, Minn./Mayo) or senior Abel Bromley (Sandy, Utah/Waterford). Dualeh had seven points and Bromley three last fall.</p> <p>Another offensive spark could come from newcomer Ker Atak (FY, Rochester, Minn./John Marshall). Atak led all Minnesota High Schools in scoring in 2002 and was an All State honoree.</p> <p>The midfield corps will be without two-time All MIAC Chris Gangl in the starting line up for the first time since 2000. Senior captain Trevor Davies (Waukesha, Wis./South) will help fill the void. Davies, who has starting experience over last two seasons, had a goal and an assist last year.</p> <p>Ryan Franz (So., Rochester, Minn./Mayo) started last year as well, collecting two goals and an assist. Abu Farah (So., Rochester, Minn./Century) also returns after seeing significant minutes last season.</p> <p>Mike Peabody (So., Whitewater, Wis.), Gabe Harrick (So., Golden Valley, Minn./Minnehaha Academy) and Grant Collins (Jr., Rochester, Minn.) will compete for minutes in fall camp. Collins sat out the entire 2003 season with a torn ACL.</p> <p>Northfield native Karl Gleason (FY) could also see time in the midfield.</p> <p>The backfield, an area that Anderson feels needs the most improvement, has to replace another four-year starter, Mark Gilmer.</p> <p>"We need to tighten up the back end and defend better," said Anderson. "If we want to finish in the top four and get to the playoffs, we just have to."</p> <p>The Oles have a four-year starter to lead the backers in Captain Matt Osborne. Osborne (Sr., St. Paul, Minn./Highland Park) had another solid season in 2003, as did Andrew Gastineau (So., Rochester, Minn./Mayo). The duo, with Charlie Bramen (Sr., St. Paul, Minn./Highland Park) and Mike Prendergast (Jr., Rochester, Minn./Century) have experience on their side and should solidify the defense in front of goalkeeper Kyle Trimble (Sr., Milwaukee, Wis./Whitefish Bay).</p> <p>Trimble collected shutouts in each of the Oles six MIAC wins last season, which led all MIAC goalkeepers in conference games.</p> <p>St. Olaf opens Sept. 1 @ Simpson College and Sept. 2 @ Nebraska Wesleyan. Their home opener is Sept. 6 against Wartburg College, and MIAC play begins at home Sept. 15 against Gustavus Adolphus College at 4 p.m.</p>
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University of St. Thomas		
Head Coach:	Aaron Macke (3rd season, 22-11-3 overall)	
2004 Record:	12-7-0 overall (7-3-0 MIAC / 4th)	
Key Returners:	<p>Peder Hatling, SR, GK (4-1, 0.53 GAA in 2003)</p> <p>Matt McWilliams, JR, D</p> <p>Joe Wanzek, SR, D</p> <p>David Wingard, JR, F (6g-4a in 2003)</p>	

Season Preview:	<p>The St. Thomas men's soccer team graduated several key players off a 2003 squad which came on strong and earned a spot in the inaugural MIAC playoffs. The Tommies won 10 of their final 11 regular-season games last season to take fourth in the MIAC standings. They lost to conference champ Macalester 2-0 in the playoff semifinals and closed the season 12-7.</p> <p>Third-year coach Aaron Macke must replace four-year starter and All-Region defender Matt Raplinger (71 career games, 20 goals, 3X All-MIAC). Also gone are HM All-MIAC defender Kyle Hale, forward Joe Roedler (5 goals, 20 assists last two seasons) and GK Oren Kipp (2003: 6-4, 1.43 GAA, 3 shutouts).</p> <p>Macke has a young squad with just three seniors on his 25-man roster, and he'll have to rely on balance. The team co-captains will be two Ames, Iowa natives -- senior defender Joe Wanzek and junior midfielder Mike Heitzman. A two-time HM All-MIAC honoree, Heitzman returns after being sidelined with a knee injury in 2003.</p> <p>Only two players who scored more than one goal last season return -- junior David Wingard (6 goals-4 assists/16 points) and sophomore David Erickson (3 goals/6 points). Other returners include junior midfielders Matt Michalik, Andy Ko, Kris Gurda and Jeremy Pope; junior defender Matt McWilliams; sophomore defender Joe Rolfzen; and sophomore midfielder Ben Orcutt</p> <p>Battling for the goalkeeping job is senior Peder Hatling (4-1, 0.53 GAA in 2003) and freshmen Minnesota all-state honorees Matt Carlson (Stillwater HS) and Daniel Hutton (Apple Valley HS).</p> <p>Among the newcomers are junior midfielder Ryan Servaty, a transfer who had four assists for Wisconsin-Parkside last season, and nine freshmen.</p> <p>The Tommies play seven of their nine September games at home, starting Sept. 2 vs. Northland. They open MIAC play Sept. 15 at Carleton, and host defending conference champ Macalester Sept. 17.</p>
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