

2006 MIAC MEN'S SOCCER PREVIEW

The 2006 MIAC men's soccer season promises to be a competitive one. With four different teams receiving first place votes the battle for the conference and playoff championship will be fierce. Macalester, who finished last season as MIAC co-champions, will look to senior Magnus Oppenheimer and junior Ryan Palmer to lead the Scots to a strong finish again this season. Defending MIAC co-champions and national runner-up Gustavus will count on senior goalkeeper Tyler Garry to keep the defense strong. Defending playoff champions Saint John's University will bring an experienced team back again this season as they look to make a run at the conference title. Senior midfielder Matt Michalik and junior goalkeeper Daniel Hutton will keep St. Thomas a strong contender for the crown.

St. Olaf, Augsburg, and Hamline all have the possibility of being a surprise team in the conference championship race. Each team showed potential last season and is looking to upset some conference favorites in 2006. If one of the preseason top four falters, look for the Oles, Auggies or Pipers to step into a playoff spot.

Carleton, Bethel, Saint Mary's and Concordia will all look to improve on last season's finishes. Carleton and Bethel each feature young, talented players with lots of potential. Saint Mary's and Concordia have coaches who enter their first and second seasons, respectively, and plan to instill winning traditions.


If the 2006 MIAC men's soccer season is anything like the 2005 season it can be guaranteed that it will be an exciting one. Last year, the MIAC had three teams (Saint John's, Macalester, and Gustavus) all make the NCAA playoffs, the largest number of teams from this conference since the new automatic bid system began. This season hopes to continue where last season left off, great student-athletes playing competitive soccer.

2006 MIAC Preseason Men's Soccer Coach's Poll

(First Place Votes in Parentheses)

- 1. Macalester (3)
- 2. (tie) Gustavus (4)
- 2. (tie) Saint John's (3)
- 4. St. Thomas (1)
- 5. St. Olaf
- 6. (tie) Augsburg
- 6. (tie) Hamline
- 8. Carleton
- 9. Bethel
- 10. Saint Mary's
- 11. Concordia

2006 MIAC Men's Soccer Playoffs	
Semifinals Tuesday, October 31 #4 Seed @ #1 Seed #3 Seed @ #2 Seed	Championship Saturday, November 4 Semifinal winners at high seed

Augsburg College		
Head Coach:	Greg Holker (3rd season / 13-19-4 overall)	
2005 Record:	6-10-2 (3-5-2 MIAC / 9th)	

**Key
Returns:**

Cassidy Duerr (D, So., Blaine, Minn./Spring Lake Park)
All-MIAC first-team defender in 2005, starting all 18 games; missed 2004 season with broken foot

Alec Rabine (MF/D, Jr., St. Louis Park, Minn.)
All-MIAC honorable mention in 2005; two-year starter, fourth on team in scoring in 2005 (3G-1A--7P)


Andrew Seidel (MF, So., Woodbury, Minn.)
Led Augsburg in scoring in 2005 (3G-7A--13P); MIAC Player of the Week on Sept. 27

Noah Turner (D, Jr., Plymouth, Minn./Wayzata)
Returns to Augsburg lineup after not playing in 2005; All-MIAC honorable mention in 2004 with 2G-1A--5P


Ryan Kitman (MF/D, Sr., Maple Grove, Minn./Osseo)
2G-1A--5P in 18 games in 2005; team co-captain in 2006; 2G-2A--6P in 2 seasons at Augsburg (35 games)

Vinnie Brooks (D/MF, Sr., Maple Grove, Minn./Osseo)
2 assists in 17 games in 2005; team co-captain in 2006; 6 assists in career (51 games).


Season Preview:	<p>Head coach Greg Holker puts it succinctly regarding what he expects from his Augsburg College men's soccer team in 2006.</p> <p>"It's hard not to be excited," said a beaming Holker, entering his third season as head coach for the Auggies.</p> <p>And with nine starters and 14 letterwinners returning, along with one of the most talent-rich recruiting classes in school history, it's hard not to agree with Holker's optimistic assessment of his team's potential.</p> <p>The Auggies have shown steady improvement during Holker's tenure, coming off a 6-10-2 overall record and 3-5-2 mark in Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference play last season. Though the Auggies' roster features just eight upperclassmen -- four seniors and four juniors -- there is a tremendous sense of optimism in the talent featured among those returners, along with the 13 sophomores and 13 freshmen that make up the preseason listing.</p> <p>"We believe that there are 20 to 22 players who can play (on the varsity) right now," Holker said. "We think there are four or five freshmen that can play right away. We have some depth, and that might present a new set of issues for us. Instead of trying to figure out how we get through the game with enough players, it's going to be how do we get everybody enough minutes to keep them happy, and how do we balance this team for playing in the conference.</p> <p>And as the improvement process continues, Holker has set some optimistic goals for his program -- securing an above-.500 record for the first time since the Auggies' last MIAC title campaign of 1980 (11-1-2), and making the four-team MIAC postseason playoffs for the first time in school history. Along the way, the Auggies are aiming to earn more respect among their MIAC peers.</p> <p>Depth at every position</p> <p>There's returning depth at virtually every position on the field, led by three returning seniors -- defender Vinnie Brooks (Sr., Maple Grove, Minn./Osseo HS), midfielder Ryan Kitzman (Sr., Maple Grove, Minn./Osseo HS) and forward Nicholas Stuber (Sr., Cadillac, Mich.).</p> <p>Brooks, the lone three-year starter on the squad, has appeared in 51 games in an Auggie uniform, and shares co-captain duties with Kitzman, a two-year starter who has played in 35 Auggie games. Stuber has been a key reserve at the forward spot, appearing in all 18 games last year.</p> <p>Brooks will join 2005 All-MIAC selection Cassidy Duerr (So., Blaine, Minn./Spring Lake Park HS) in the back for Augsburg, along with Noah Turner (Jr., Plymouth, Minn./Wayzata HS), an all-conference honorable-mention selection in 2004 who returns to the lineup after a year's absence. Duerr, who returned to the Auggie lineup after a broken foot sidelined him in 2004, became a steady force in the center back position, starting in all 18 games.</p> <p>The midfield is packed with veteran returners, Holker noted. All-MIAC honorable mention selection Alec Rabine (Jr., St. Louis Park, Minn.) was fourth on the squad in scoring last year with three goals and an assist. Andrew Seidel (So., Woodbury, Minn.), who led the Auggies in scoring last season (three goals and seven assists for 13 points), will play on the wing along with Kitzman.</p> <p>Returners Ryley Teske (So., Prior Lake, Minn./Bloomington Lutheran HS), D.J. Wendell (So., Princeton, Minn./Charles M. Russell (Mont.) HS), Brian Jungwirth (So., Bloomington, Minn./Bloomington Lutheran HS) and James See (So., Richfield, Minn./Holy Angels HS) will also contend for time in the midfield.</p> <p>Andrew Connor (Jr., Beckett, Mass./North Muskegon (Mich.) HS), who scored three goals and had two assists last year, will anchor the Augsburg forwards, along with Stuber.</p> <p>All three goalkeepers return for their sophomore seasons -- Pascaul Venter (So., Rochester, Minn./John Marshall HS), Evan Fuhs (So., Woodbury, Minn.) and Donnie McCarthy (So., Whitehall, Mich.). Venter and Fuhs each appeared in 10 games last season, with Venter recording a 1.51 goals-against-average with one shutout, and Fuhs recording a 1.73 GAA with two shutouts. McCarthy appeared in one varsity game and all five reserve games last year.</p> <p>Complete Augsburg preview at: http://www.augsburg.edu/athletics/msoccer/0607preview.html</p>
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Bethel University	
Head Coach: Joel Johnson (3rd season / 17-18-1 overall)	
2005 Record: 6-11-0 (1-9-0 MIAC / 10th)	


Key Returners:	Pete Halverson All-Conference Defender Reed Thunstrom All-Conference Honorable Mention: 8 goals, 7 assists
Season Preview:	<p>If the 2004 playoff run was a season to remember for the Royals, 2005 might be characterized as a season to forget. A young team, trying to fill several key roles saw its share of growing pains, injuries and tough losses last year. But that youth returns in 2006 as a veteran team looking to return to playoffs. The Royals return nine starters and 20 players with varsity experience.</p> <p>Offensively, the Royals will rely on four-year starter Reed Thunstrom (Sr. Cambridge, Minn.) and look to Rich Alberts (Sr., Maple Grove, Minn.) along with others for scoring punch. Bethel will also look for more contribution out of a deep stable of experienced midfielders including returning starters Abe Voyer (Sr., Mounds View, Minn.) and Matt Duer (Jr., Andover, Minn.). Defensively, the Royals will be anchored by All-MIAC defender Peter Halverson (Sr., Shoreview, Minn.), three-year starter Ryan VanderVeen (Sr., Wheaton, Ill.), and returning sweeper Jake Haws (Jr., Fergus Falls, Minn.).</p> <p>Add in a strong recruiting class and 2006 has the potential of a return to playoff soccer for the Bethel Royals.</p> <p>Complete Bethel preview at: http://cas.bethel.edu/athletics/M_Soccer.html/2006/preview.html</p>

Carleton College		
Head Coach:	Bob Carlson (10th season/ 79-69-13 overall)	
2005 Record:	11-6-1 (4-5-1 MIAC / Tied 7th)	
Key Returners:	Bobby Phillips (So./Vadnais Heights, Minn./Mounds View) Brian TenHoor (So./Eden Prairie, Minn./Minnehaha Academy) Ross Martin (Sr./Norwalk, Conn.) Ross Mattson (Sr./St. Paul, Minn./Minnehaha Academy), Robbie Webber (Sr./Norwich, Vt./St. Paul's School) Paul Pedtke (So./Evanston, Ill./Evanston Township)	


Season Preview:	<p>The return of six of their top eight scorers from last year, a three-year starter in net and carrying an eight-match unbeaten streak into the season, the Carleton College men's soccer is cautiously optimistic entering the 2006 campaign.</p> <p>The Knights, who posted the best record in the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference over the second half of the season, return super sophomores Bobby Phillips (Vadnais Heights, Minn./Mounds View) and Brian TenHoor (Eden Prairie, Minn./Minnehaha Academy). Both scored six goals and added five assists in their rookie campaigns, but they'll need to try and replicate those numbers without the security blanket of David Watson '06, who graduated as Carleton's first four-time All-MIAC player and had four game-winning goals and ranked third on the team with 14 points last season.</p> <p>"They're a very potent combination," Carleton head coach Bob Carlson acknowledged. He pointed out that TenHoor came off the bench in his rookie season, so how he adjusts to being a starter is a factor. As for Phillips, he called him the hardest-working forward the Knights have had in a while. "He'll do anything for the team," Carlson said. "In that Macalester game, he made 50 runs and then made 10 more."</p> <p>Carlson knows that replacing Watson is a futile task. "We'll have to do it by committee," he said. Carlson said Ross Martin (Sr./Norwalk, Conn.) will step in and play that role of attacking midfielder. "Ross is a senior and has been through the MIAC and knows what it takes," Carlson said. "I think he will get TenHoor and Phillips the ball and then we need to figure out how to get numbers in the box to support those guys, but it's a good problem to have returning those two guys." Paul Pedtke (So./Evanston, Ill./Evanston Township) will be tucked behind him as the other midfielder.</p> <p>How this new personnel shift works may determine Carleton's level of success in 2006. During their eight-match unbeaten streak that capped 2005, the Knights scored 20 goals, compared to 13 over their first 10 games, including three shutout losses. The streak led the Knights to an 11-6-1 record, allowing them to match the school record for wins in a season. Included in their record was a tough 1-0 loss to Gustavus Adolphus, which ended up advancing to the national championship game, a 0-0 tie with NCAA Tournament qualifier Macalester that denied the Scots from clinching the MIAC title outright, and a 3-1 defeat of MIAC Playoff qualifier Hamline.</p> <p>Defensively, the Knights were very solid last season, allowing more than one goal only three times in 18 matches. Six of those matches were shutouts, four by keeper Ross Mattson (Sr./St. Paul, Minn./Minnehaha Academy), who posted career-best numbers of 0.63 goals-against average. "He didn't give up a goal in October," Carlson noted. "He has the size, smarts and talent – he has it all. We have one of the best goalkeepers in the conference."</p> <p>While central defender Kurt Bunnelle '06 graduated, a steady back line returns in front of Mattson, including Robbie Webber (Sr./Norwich, Vt./St. Paul's School), who scored three goals as a defender in 2005. "We lose Kurt's leadership, but we gain Robbie's leadership," Carlson said. "He's a natural leader – people just respond to Robbie. I think he'll be a guy we count on in the back and to lead us back there." Two-year starter Peter Grassman (Jr./Evanston, Ill./Evanston Township), one of the fastest players in the conference, according to Carlson, should also start again and is the type of defender that can jump into the attack.</p> <p>Another top returner in the midfield is junior Thomas Ashton (Los Altos, Calif./Bellarmine College Prep), who tied for third on the squad with five goals last season and figures to give the Knights another dangerous attacking player.</p> <p>Complete Carleton preview at: http://apps.carleton.edu/athletics/?sport=260&module=content&id=233611</p>
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Concordia College		
Head Coach:	Damian Koshnick (2nd season / 1-15-0 overall)	
2005 Record:	1-15-0 (0-10-0 MIAC / 11th)	
Key Returners:	Kevin Quimby (Midfielder) 3-year starter; 5th on the team in scoring in '04	


Season Preview:	<p>You'll have to forgive Concordia men's soccer second-year head coach Damian Koshnick if he has an urge to put on a baseball uniform and hat. That's because, like all the major league teams that start spring training, the Cobbers can wipe away the past and start the season anew. The "hope springs eternal" mentality for Koshnick should be warranted in 2006 as Concordia returns seven starters from last season, will have an infusion of offensive talent by the return of the team's top scorer in 2003 and 2004 and have a solid class of newcomers that will help the Cobbers steadily improve.</p> <p>Even though Concordia hasn't won a conference game since the 2003 season, the foundation of players that Koshnick will have to work with has him looking forward to the possibilities, "we will have a good mixture of experience and youth and I am really excited to see what this team can do," commented Koshnick.</p> <p>The old baseball saying states that "good teams are formed through the middle of the lineup." The 2006 Concordia squad is hoping that adage will also hold true for the "beautiful game." The Cobbers will have a solid midfield, a proven scoring threat in the middle, an experienced central defense and a trio of quality goalkeepers.</p> <p>Unlike his first season at the helm, Koshnick will be able to position experienced players in every spot of the field in 2006. Senior captains Kevin Quimby (Mahtomedi, Minn.) and Caleb Husmann (Rochester, Minn./Rochester Century HS) will give Concordia a firm foundation in the middle of the field as both players roam the midfield and both players have the capability to carry the team on their back at any point during the game.</p> <p>The biggest addition for Concordia in 2006 will be the return of forward Brandon Root (Fargo, N.D./Fargo South HS). Root took the year off in 2005 to recover from a knee injury. He was the team's leading scorer in 2003 and 2004 and is the proven goal-scorer the Cobbers lacked up front in 2005.</p> <p>Koshnick will be able to deploy to string central defenders that are very capable in the air, which is a prerequisite for defenders in the grueling MIAC. Juniors Chad Morlock (Moorhead, Minn.) and Matt Klein (Fergus Falls, Minn.) have battled through two seasons of college soccer 101 and will be ready for even the most physical offensive attack.</p> <p>The Cobbers return both goalies from last season and have a "high upside" international player that will compete for the starting spot. Dustin Pattengale (Jr., Moorhead, Minn.) and Brett Oestreich (Jr., Fargo, N.D./Fargo South) split the goalkeeping duties in 2005. Pattengale led the team in goals against average, while Oestreich was the goalie for the Cobbers' lone win of the season last year. Sophomore transfer Mads Schmidt (Skive, Norway) has been the biggest surprise of the early season. He has a proven background in the goal when he played in Norway. His athleticism and foot skills could give Concordia a solid No.1 starting goalie.</p> <p>Joining Root up front will be junior Kwaku Opoku (Takoradi, Ghana/Mfantsipion HS). Opoku has good speed and the ability to run at defenders to create space from any point of the field. His goal total of two in 2005 should be pumped up by the addition of Root.</p> <p>With Husmann on the wing in the midfield and Quimby running the central part of the field, Concordia will need to find a pair of running mates for the captains. Sophomore Genna Patselov (Fargo, N.D./Fargo North HS) showed signs of quality soccer in the early stages of 2005 before he was bitten by the injury bug. If he remains healthy, he will give the Cobbers a very good bookend to Husmann on the other side of the field Chase Hegarty (So., Plymouth, Minn./Wayzata HS) was fourth on the team in scoring last year as a freshman and he will be one of the players that will be aided by the year of experience. Joining Hegarty and Patselov as key midfield components will be Ryan Elling (Jr., Inver Grove Heights, Minn./Simley HS) and Aaron Klein (So., Fergus Falls, Minn.).</p> <p>Koshnick knows that the key for the Cobbers in 2006 will be to cut down on the goals allowed. Concordia had only two games in 2005 where they held their opponent to under three goals. Morlock and Matt Klein's experience should help the Cobbers greatly improve in that area. Finding two other players to mesh with the juniors will be vital. Shane Evenstad (Jr., Moorhead, Minn.) and Ryan Albrecht (Jr., Stillwater, Minn.) are two more hard-nosed defenders who will be called upon to play a key role. Several newcomers could be slotted into the final spot on defense. Leading the freshmen charge are Robbie Tungseth (Moorhead, Minn.) and Lane Muzzana (Great Falls, Mont./C.M. Russell HS). Both players have excellent family athletic ties. Tungseth's older brother Rick was a three-year starter, and captain, for Concordia and Muzzana's mother was a Division I athlete.</p> <p>If experience adds to a greater success rate, then the 2006 Concordia men's soccer team has the right tools to climb the ladder in 2006 and start back on the road to the top in the MIAC.</p>
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Gustavus Adolphus College	
Head Coach:	Larry Zelenz (21st season / 224-96-39 overall)
2005 Record:	17-3-5 (7-1-2 MIAC / Tied 1st)


Key Returners:	<p>Tyler Garry (Sr., Goalkeeper, Sioux Falls, SD) Finished 7th in Div. III in goals against avg. at 0.41</p> <p>Alex Groth (Sr., Forward, Waupaca, Wis.) Leading returning scorer with 9 g, 5a - 23 pts.</p> <p>Ben Heupel (Jr., Defender, Maple Grove, Minn.) Played midfield last year, tallied four assists</p> <p>Jeffrey Johnson (Jr., Midfielder, Tonka Bay, Minn.) Honorable mention all-conference, 7g, 5a - 19 pts.</p> <p>Sam Barthell (Jr., Defender, Bloomington, Minn.) Starting outside back in every game last season</p>
Season Preview:	<p>The Gustavus men's soccer team will set its sights on winning the program's third consecutive MIAC regular season title in 2006. Coach Larry Zelenz's squad returns five starters and 16 letterwinners from a squad that posted a mark of 17-3-5 overall and finished second in the NCAA National Tournament last year. A group of five seniors will provide leadership, while a group of 10 juniors will need to step up and assume significant roles after playing behind a talented group of seven seniors last year.</p> <p>The core group of five returning starters includes senior goalkeeper Tyler Garry (Sioux Falls, So. Dak.), senior forward Alex Groth (Waupaca, Wis.), junior outside back Ben Heupel (Maple Grove, Minn./Osseo), junior midfielder Jeffrey Johnson (Tonka Bay, Minn./Minnetonka), and junior defender Sam Barthell (Bloomington, Minn./Jefferson). Garry, who will direct a defensive unit that will change its configuration from three backs to four this season, posted an impressive record of 14-2-3 a year ago with 10 shutouts. His 0.42 goals against average ranked seventh in the final Division III statistical rankings. Groth, who is the team's leading returning scorer after tallying 9 goals and 5 assists for 23 points last year, is very strong on the ball and gives the Gusties a physical presence up front. Heupel, who was very effective as an outside midfielder last year, will move to an outside back position this season to bolster the defense. The speedy Heupel will likely be a dangerous offensive weapon out of the back for Zelenz's squad. Johnson, who scored 7 goals and 5 assists for 19 points last season, scored the game-winning goal in the NCAA semifinal match against Whitworth. He will anchor the midfield and serve as the catalyst for the Gustie attack this season. Barthell is the only starting back that returns from a year ago. He will likely move to the middle to solidify a young and inexperienced defensive unit.</p> <p>The rest of the lineup will be filled by a talented group of backups who have waited for a chance to play. That group includes junior forward Mike Butterworth (Jr., Anchorage, Alaska/Service), junior midfielder Ryan Beduhn (St. Cloud, Minn./Tech), senior forward Dan Suchy (La Crosse, Wis./Central), junior midfielder Jack Underwood (Fergus Falls, Minn.), senior forward Neil Nelson (Edina, Minn.), junior midfielder Gabe Joyes (Stoughton, Wis.), senior defender Matt Strom (Plymouth, Minn./Cooper), senior midfielder Matt Broin (Minnetonka, Minn./Hopkins), sophomore defender Flynn Stewart-Franzen (Minneapolis, Minn./Holy Angels), and sophomore defender Todd Johnson (Bloomington, Minn./Jefferson). In addition, freshman Fraser Horton, a midfielder from Missoula, Montana, will likely see significant playing time.</p>


Hamline University		
Head Coach:	Andy Coutts (8th season / 48-66-9 overall)	
2005 Record:	10-5-3 (5-2-3 MIAC / 4th)	
Key Returners:	Jacob Helling (Brookings, S.D.) Steven Dupic (Sioux Falls, S.D.) Arron Wight (White Bear Lake, Minn.) Andrew Clement (Victoria, Minn.)	


Season Preview:	<p>After an historic 2005 season that included the program's first trip to the MIAC playoffs, the Hamline men's soccer team must find a new personality with the graduation of five of last year's starters.</p> <p>"We're going to be a very different team on the field in talent and personnel and off the field in chemistry," head coach Andy Coutts said of his squad that went 10-5-3 last season, 5-2-3 in the MIAC. "Things are going to be very different because we had such a strong senior class. Our identity was their identity, and this year we're not sure what that identity is going to be."</p> <p>The Pipers will still boast a talented lineup, but have less experience than in years past. Coutts hopes the experience of 2005 playoff team will pay dividends this season.</p> <p>"Having that success sends a message to the guys that we can do and maybe should do it," Coutts said. "It sets the bar high, and now that we've gotten a taste of it, they get hungry to experience it again."</p> <p>A main reason for the Pipers' success last season was the goal-scoring capability of forward Jacob Helling (Brookings, S.D.). The senior returns after leading the team in scoring last year with 11 goals and five assists for 27 points. For his efforts, he was named All-West region third team and ESPN The Magazine Academic All-District V.</p> <p>"Jacob has a tireless work ethic," Coutts said of the forward. "He's really versatile and has the ability to use both feet. He's a smart player and athletically skilled. He's quick in tight spaces and fast over a distance. There aren't many guys who do all those things well. He's technically a very sound player."</p> <p>The Pipers will also look to sophomore Jason Werthmann (Osceola, Wis.) to add scoring punch. As a first-year, Werthmann netted three goals and two assists. Junior Nathan Anderson (Cottage Grove, Minn.) and first-years Matt Ward (Sandy, Utah) and Jason High (Victoria, Minn.) will also look to contribute.</p> <p>Hamline remains strong in the midfield despite graduating three starters, including ESPN The Magazine Academic All-America second team performer Andrew Helling. Senior Steven Dupic (Sioux Falls, S.D.) started 17 games a season ago with a goal and seven assists. Junior Jason Engedal (Eau Claire, Wis.) was tied for third on the team in scoring with three goals and eight assists in a reserve roll. Senior Jeremy Wade (Oregon, Wis.) and sophomore Mike Landerholm (Apple Valley, Minn.) each played key rolls last season while sophomore Mike Buehler (Cumming, Iowa) and first-years Edi Buro (Brooklyn Park, Minn.), Matt Warhol (Andover, Minn.), and Courtney Duffield (Milan, Ill.) will look to make an impact.</p> <p>Defense will remain a question mark for the Pipers heading into the season after losing a pair of four-year starters in Ben Watkins and Micah Merritt. Junior Arron Wight (White Bear Lake, Minn.) returns as the only starter in the back from a season ago, scoring five assists.</p> <p>The Pipers enter the season with four goalkeepers on the roster. Among them is two-year starter Andrew Clement (Victoria, Minn.). The junior posted a 0.82 goals against average last season – fifth in the MIAC for all games. He is joined by first-year goalkeepers Kevin Hogan (Moline, Ill.), Ryan Fahey (Bellevue, Wash.), and John Moening (Minneapolis, Minn.).</p> <p>Complete Hamline preview at: http://www.hamline.edu/hamline_info/athletics/mens_soccer/2006/outlook.html</p>
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<u>Macalester College</u>		
Head Coach:	John Leaney (19th season / 228-81-35 overall) Ian Barker (4th season as co-head coach / 35-18-6 overall)	
2005 Record:	14-5-2 (7-1-2 MIAC / Tied 1st)	
Key Returners:	Magnus Oppenheimer (Sr, MF / Stockholm, Sweden) Two-time All-MIAC Ryan Palmer (Jr, GK / Helena, Mont. / Capital)	


Season Preview:	<p>Macalester tied Gustavus for the MIAC crown last fall and is anticipating another winning season under co-head coaches Ian Barker and John Leaney as the Scots are going for their eighth league championship in 10 years. The team went 14-5-2 overall and 7-1-2 in the MIAC last year and reached the second round of the NCAA playoffs before bowing out. Mac graduated a very good senior class, which included all-region picks Andrew Wissler and Ian Ritz, who helped the team go 30-4-6 in conference play over the past four years. Even without these players, however, there is still enough talent to make a run for another title.</p> <p>All-MIAC midfielder Magnus Oppenheimer (Sr., Stockholm, Sweden / Viktor Rydberg) has been one of the league's best players over the past three years and will be asked to play even a bigger role in '06 after scoring seven goals last year. Mac will also look for offensive production up front from the likes of Michael Blythe (Sr., Stillwater, Minn.), Alex Whitworth (Jr., Forest City, N.C. / North Carolina School of Math & Science) and Carson Gorecki (So., Mahtomedi, Minn.). Nate Van Wylen (So., Northfield, Minn.) and Grant Stegner (Jr., Edina, Minn.) can also put the ball in the back of the net. Ryan Palmer (So., Helena, Mont. / Capital) posted a 0.73 goals against average in net in 20 starts and surrendered just six goals in 10 MIAC matches. The squad loses some good players in front of Palmer, but does return top defender Jeff Rogers (Sr., Carson City, Nev.).</p> <p>Complete Macalester preview at: http://www.macalester.edu/athletics/msoccer/news/06_season_outlook.html</p>
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Saint John's University	
Head Coach:	Pat Haws (29th season / 305-113-44 overall)
2005 Record:	14-3-3 (7-2-1 MIAC / 3rd)
Key Returns:	<p>Ben Passe (Jr., Midfielder) Honorable mention All-MIAC last season as a junior</p> <p>Tyler Kodet (So., Forward) All-MIAC selection in 2005, tallied 25 points (11g/3a), tied for the team lead with 11 goals, 5 game-winning goals</p> <p>Ben Kachan (Jr., Midfielder) Recorded 7 points (3g/1a) in 20 games for the Johnnies last season.</p> <p>Matt Sundberg (Jr., Goalkeeper) Posted a 6-1-1 record with 4 shutouts last season for the Johnnies.</p>
Season Preview:	<p>After its first MIAC Playoff Championship and fourth NCAA Tournament appearance, the Saint John's University soccer team is eager to begin the 2006 season hoping for continued success.</p> <p>Saint John's ended its 2005 season with a 14-3-3 overall record and a 7-2-1 record in the MIAC.</p> <p>The Johnnies are expected to return three seniors this fall: midfielders Sebastian Gomes (Perth, Ontario/St. John Catholic), Nick Menth (St. Cloud, Minn./Tech) and Jeff Amble (Moorhead, Minn.).</p> <p>This year's junior class will include midfielder Ben Passe (Oronoco/Rochester Lourdes), goalkeeper Matt Sundberg (Wayzata, Minn.), defender Bryan Mills (White Bear Lake, Minn./St. Paul Academy), defender AJ Tufte (Plymouth, Minn./Wayzata), midfielder Justin Swierk (Plymouth, Minn./Wayzata), midfielder Ben Kachan (Edina, Minn.), and forward John Krebsbach (St. Cloud, Minn./Cathedral).</p> <p>Passe was third on the team in assists last season with five and tied for ninth in the MIAC. Passe was named to the ESPN The Magazine Academic All-District V College Division Soccer First Team, All-MIAC Second Team and MIAC Academic All-Conference in 2005. Sundberg was second on the team in saves with 45 and posted a save percentage of .818. Sundberg ended the season with a 6-1-1 record and four shutouts. Sundberg was tied for fifth in the MIAC for season shutouts.</p> <p>The Johnnies' sophomore group includes forward Tyler Kodet (Rochester, Minn./Lourdes), defender Jason Daly (Eden Prairie, Minn.), defender Chris Schultz (Coon Rapids, Minn.), midfielder Levi Lowell (Stillwater, Minn.), midfielder Mike Jacobson (Golden Valley, Minn./Benilde-St. Margaret's) and midfielder Kellen Groves (Stillwater, Minn.). In addition to these returnees, forward Brian Horst (Stillwater, Minn.), who is a Division I transfer from Fairleigh Dickinson, N.J., will be playing for the Johnnies this year.</p> <p>Kodet led the Johnnies in game-winning goals with five and was tied for first in team goals with 11. He also finished second on the team in points with 25 and shots on goal with 21. Additionally, Kodet tied for first in game-winning goals in the MIAC, tied for second in goals, tied for fifth in goals per game averaging .55, and sixth in points at 24 and points per game with a 1.20 average. Kodet was named to the All-MIAC First Team last season.</p> <p>Complete Saint John's preview at: http://www.gojohnnies.com/soccer/2006%20preview.htm</p>

Saint Mary's University.		
Head Coach:	Chris Dembiec (1st season / 0-0-0 overall)	
2005 Record:	6-9-1 (5-5-0 MIAC / 6th)	
Key Returners:	<p>Mike Schmitt (Sr., Mid., Woodridge, Ill. / Downers Grove North) 16 GP, 10 goals, 22 points – both team highs; All-MIAC</p> <p>Tim Bollis (So., For., Milwaukee, Wis. / South Milwaukee) 14 GP, 4 goals, 10 points</p> <p>Jon Vik (Sr., Mid., St. Paul, Minn. / Cretin-Derham Hall) 15 GP, 3 goals, 8 points</p> <p>Ryan O'Connor (So., GK, San Diego, Calif.) 2.26 GAA, 136 saves, played every minute of every game in goal his sophomore year)</p>	
Season Preview:	<p>A month ago, Chris Dembiec was entertaining visions of helping guide The Prairie School in Racine, Wis., to its third straight state championship this fall.</p> <p>Not anymore.</p> <p>In the span of 30 days, Dembiec's coaching career took a 180-degree turn.</p> <p>No longer roaming the sidelines as the head coach of one of the most dominating high school teams in the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association, Dembiec's thoughts are now centered around finding ways for the Saint Mary's University men's soccer team to beat the likes of national powers Gustavus and Macalester.</p> <p>"It's been a crazy summer," said Dembiec, who took over as the Cardinals' head coach in mid-July, after Eric Luzzi stepped down to accept an assistant coaching position at NCAA Division I Northern Illinois. "One minute, I'm thinking about getting (The Prairie School) ready to make a run at a three-peat, and the next, I'm here (at Saint Mary's).</p> <p>"We've got a great group of guys — and a good mix of upper and underclassmen," said Dembiec, who returns his leading scorer — first-team All-MIAC selection Mike Schmitt (Woodridge, Ill.) — as well as starting goalkeeper Ryan O'Connor (San Diego, Calif.), who played every minute of every game a year ago. "There's going to be an adjustment period — I've got a lot to learn about my players, and they've got a lot to learn about me — but I'm very excited about where this team can go."</p> <p>Complete Saint Mary's preview at: http://sports.smumn.edu/m_soccer/2006/newsletter/mspreview.html</p>	

St. Olaf College		
Head Coach:	Kurt Anderson (18th season / 164-109-17 overall)	
2005 Record:	4-5-1 (6-10-1 MIAC / Tied 7th)	
Key Returners:	<p>Andrew Gastineau (Sr., Rochester, Minn./Mayo)</p> <p>Gabe Herrick (Sr., Golden Valley, Minn./Minnehaha Academy)</p> <p>Erik Halaas (Sr., West Lakeland, Minn./Mary D. Bradford)</p> <p>Jacob Meyer (Jr., Madison, Wis.)</p> <p>Abu Farah (Sr., Rochester, Minn./Century)</p> <p>Mike Peabody (Sr., Whitewater, Wis.).</p>	

Season Preview:	<p>After a rebuilding year in 2005 and two years removed from an MIAC championship, the St. Olaf Men's Soccer team looks forward to a successful 2006 campaign.</p> <p>The Oles, who were 6-10-1 last fall, will look heavily upon their three captains this year. Andrew Gastineau (Sr., Rochester, Minn./Mayo), Gabe Herrick (Sr., Golden Valley, Minn./Minnehaha Academy) and Erik Halaas (Sr., West Lakeland, Minn./Mary D. Bradford) look to be crucial leaders across the field.</p> <p>Defensively, Gastineau will help to solidify the backfield having started all 17 games and recording one assist in the 2005 season. He was also named All-MIAC in 2005.</p> <p>Halaas will team up with Jacob Meyer (Jr., Madison, Wis.), who led the Oles in points with 11, up front. Four of Meyer's five goals were game-winners.</p> <p>Herrick will have help in securing the middle with Abu Farah (Sr., Rochester, Minn./Century) and Mike Peabody (Sr., Whitewater, Wis.).</p> <p>Farah appeared in 15 games in an injury-plagued 2005 with one assist. In 2004, Farah was a second team All-Region pick after collecting seven goals and nine assists.</p> <p>Peabody appeared in 19 games, recording two goals and one assist in 2004 but was sidelined in 2005 due to an injury is looking to make a strong comeback.</p> <p>Showing great potential and looking to add to his breakout season is sophomore Mark Zietlow (Rochester, Minn./Mayo) who played in 16 games and netted three goals and one assist in 2005.</p> <p>Returning in net will be Eric Smith (Jr., Bainbridge Island, Wash.) who appeared in eight games in 2005 with a 4-4-0 record.</p> <p>The Oles open on Sept. 1 at home against Martin Luther College. Conference play begins on Sept. 13 at Augsburg.</p> <p>Complete St. Olaf preview at: http://fusion.stolaf.edu/athletics//index.cfm?fuseaction=NewsDetails&id=942</p>
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<u>University of St. Thomas</u>	
Head Coach:	
2005 Record:	
Key Returners:	<p>Matt Michalik (SR, MF) HM All-MIAC in 2005</p> <p>Daniel Hutton (JR, GK) Career: 16 games, 5 starts, 8-1-0 W-L-T</p> <p>Eric Schmidt (JR, D) 3rd year as starter</p> <p>Max Weber (JR, F) Career: 6g-9a/21 points</p> <p>Ben Teeling (JR, F) Career: 4g-5a/13 points</p>
Season Preview:	<p>UST closed its 2005 season 12-4-2 overall, 5-3-2 in MIAC play, in fifth place in the final conference standings. The Tommies were in first place in mid-October but finished 0-2-2 over their last four games, including three that went to overtime. Coach Aaron Macke's team beat MIAC co-champ Macalester 1-0 and tied NCAA runner-up Gustavus 0-0.</p> <p>All-MIAC players Mike Heitzman and Adam Harding graduated, and honorable mention All-MIAC goalie Matt Carlson is sitting out this fall. Another top scorer, forward Nick Radigan, didn't return.</p> <p>Senior Matt Michalik leads the returners and joins brother Adam Michalik in the midfield position. Junior Daniel Hutton and sophomore Carlos Castelan are two big bodies sharing time in goal. On offense, juniors Max Weber and Ben Teeling, sophs Andy Gikling and Taylor Lynch, and freshman Henry Ndawula will look to pick up the scoring slack with the loss of Harding. On defense, junior Eric Schmitt, soph transfer Jon Stillwell and senior Joe Rolfzen lead the way.</p>

[2003 MIAC Men's Soccer Links - Standings, Results, Awards, Final Stats, Players of the Week, Season Preview](#)
[2002 MIAC Men's Soccer Links - Standings, Results, Awards, Final Stats, Players of the Week, Season Preview](#)
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