

2007 MIAC Men's Soccer Season Preview

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St. Paul, Minn. -- The quest for the 2007 MIAC Men's Soccer title guarantees to be highly competitive with three different teams receiving votes in the preseason coaches poll. Defending MIAC regular season co-champions Gustavus and Saint John's look to once again battle for the crown while an up-and-coming Augsburg team looks to be right in the mix.



Gustavus, coming off back-to-back NCAA post season appearances, with 12 seniors returning, looks to be a legitimate threat for the title once again. Gustie veteran coach Larry Zelenz will be looking to All-Region senior forward Mike Butterworth as well as three-year starters Jeffrey Johnson and Ben Heupel to lead an experienced squad. Returning eight starters from last season, Saint John's will likely rival the Gusties for this season's conference championship. Under the helm of 30-year Head Coach Pat Haws, the Johnnies are hoping that a solid combination of talented youth and experience will keep them in the hunt for the MIAC crown.

Augsburg head coach Greg Holker, 2006 MIAC Coach of the Year, will be looking to have his team begin this season where they left off last year. In 2006, the Auggies posted their first winning record since 1980, had the second most wins in school history and earned a berth in the MIAC playoffs. St. Thomas will utilize their depth and experience as they strive to return to post season play after missing out on the playoffs a year ago. The Tommies will be led by five seniors: All-MIAC forward Joe Voeller; forward Max Weber; midfielder Adam Michalik; defender Eric Schmitt; and goalkeeper Dan Hutton.

Macalester is hungry to return to the playoffs after missing out on postseason play last season. The Scots will look to the goal scoring abilities of All-MIAC forward Carson Gorecki and Jake Rocke to provide the offensive power needed to make a move up the standings. After making the MIAC playoffs the last two seasons, Hamline looks to continue their high level of play. The Pipers will need to fill the void left by 2006 MIAC MVP Jacob Helling in order to make it three straight seasons in the top four.

Carleton ended the 2006 season on a seven game win streak and will be looking to take that momentum into the 2007 season. The Knights feature 2006 All-MIAC performers Bobby Phillips and Paul Pedtke. St. Olaf enters the 2007 season with an experienced group determined at getting the Oles back into MIAC Playoff contention. The Oles will look to senior captain Jacob Meyer to provide an offensive spark.

A young Bethel team will look to senior captains Matt Duer and Jake Haws to provide leadership as the Royals attempt to move up in the conference standings. Bethel is led by first-year coach Pepe Jon Chavez. Saint Mary's head coach Chris Dembiec, who will be coaching both the SMU men's and women's teams this season, will count on increased depth to open things up offensively for the Cardinals. The Cardinals will need to replace two-time All-MIAC performer Mike Schmitt in order to make a move in the conference. Concordia Head coach Dan Weiler will take over the men's program this year after coaching the women's team the past five seasons. The 2007 Cobbers will be looking to improve their defense and use a talented recruiting class as they attempt to improve upon last season's finish.

MIAC Preseason Coaches Poll: 1. Gustavus, 2. Saint John's, 3. Augsburg, 4. St. Thomas, 5. Macalester, 6. Hamline, 7. Carleton, 8. St. Olaf, 9. Bethel, 10. Saint Mary's, 11. Concordia.

2007 MIAC Playoff Dates: Semifinals (Wednesday, October 31), Finals (Saturday, November 3).

Augsburg

Coach: Greg Holker

Career Record: 26-22-7 (3 seasons)

2006 Finish: 3rd (5-2-3 MIAC, 13-3-3 overall)

Augsburg Players to Watch
Pascaul Venter (GK, Jr., Rochester, Minn./John Marshall)
James SeeJ (MF, Jr., Richfield, Minn./Holy Angels)
Alex Hildebrandt (D, So., St. Paul, Minn./Highland Park)
Andrew Seidel (MF, Jr., Woodbury, Minn.)
Noah Turner (D, Sr., Plymouth, Minn./Wayzata)
Alec Rabine (MF, Sr., St. Louis Park, Minn.)

Augsburg Season Preview
In head coach Greg Holker's three previous seasons at Augsburg College, expectations have risen dramatically for the Auggie men's soccer team. Inheriting a team that had gone 14-33-5 the previous three seasons, Holker's Auggies have improved each season, going 26-22-7 during his tenure.
And last season, the Auggies reached heights not seen by the program in more than two decades -- the team's first winning record since 1980 and second-most wins in school history, a berth in the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference postseason playoffs, Holker being named MIAC Coach of the Year -- as the team finished 13-3-3 overall, 5-2-3 in league play.

Along the way, the team recorded shutouts in its first 10 games -- the longest scoreless streak to open the 2006 season by any NCAA Division III school -- and a school-record 14 shutouts on the year. Augsburg surrendered just six goals during the entire season.

But like all the other previous years since the Auggies started playing soccer in 1968, the 2006 season is now history.

Now, Holker and his team are aiming to establish Augsburg as a consistent contender for the MIAC playoffs, the MIAC championship and a spot in the NCAA Division III national playoffs. That starts this year, as 17 letterwinners and nine starters return, along with several promising newcomers.

"This is a different program from when we started here, and we have different expectations now," Holker said. "We need to be mentally strong and continue to work as hard as we can every single day. We're good enough to do it. There will be some challenges along the way, and how we deal with those challenges will define who we are as a team. We need to make it to the (MIAC) playoffs, and then we're two games away from the NCAA tournament, and that's what's important for us."

Augsburg benefitted from an early start to the season, as 27 members of the squad travelled to Buenos Aires, Argentina for an 11-day training and competition trip in early August. And with most of the team returning this season, goals are certainly high for the Auggies.

"We expect to be in the top four for the (MIAC) playoffs, and our goal would be to finish in the top two to be at home. It will require consistent and efficient work, a few breaks and staying healthy," Holker said. "This team played some pretty high-level soccer throughout the course of the summer. They're all stronger and better soccer players today than they were last November."

Goalkeeper Pascaul Venter (Jr., Rochester, Minn./John Marshall HS) had a career year in 2006, as he set a single-season school record with 12 shutouts, including a scoreless streak of 1,101:05 that was the third-longest in NCAA Division III history. He allowed just six goals all season, and his 0.33 goals-against-average and 12 victories were also single-season school records. Venter earned All-MIAC honors, All-West Region honors from the National Soccer Coaches Association of America and D3Kicks.com, and All-America second-team honors from D3Kicks.com.

But this year, Venter will face a significant challenge from Matt Carlson (Jr., Stillwater, Minn.), a two-time high school all-state player who transferred after playing his first two seasons at St. Thomas. A two-year starter with the Tommies (2004-05), he recorded 12 victories and seven shutouts, and earned All-MIAC honorable mention honors in 2005. Along with Evan Fuhs (Jr., Woodbury, Minn.), who has been a strong reserve in his Auggie career, the trio has the potential to present Augsburg with a significant defensive advantage this season.

"We're certainly the deepest team at goalkeeper, by far, in the conference," Holker said. "Nobody in the conference has a group as good as ours. Utilizing that group will be a challenge for us, and we will see who will win that battle ... The person who is performing at his best every single day in training is the person who is going to be between the posts."

In front of the goal will be an Auggie defense that returns significant depth. Alex Hildebrandt (So., St. Paul, Minn./Highland Park HS) earned All-MIAC honorable mention honors last season, starting all 19 games in the back while scoring three goals and adding three assists. Co-captains Nick Manders (Sr., De Pere, Wis./West De Pere HS) and Noah Turner (Sr., Plymouth, Minn./Wayzata HS) have been strong in the center back position. Manders scored four goals with one assist last season.

Kelsey Duerr (So., Blaine, Minn./Spring Lake Park HS), who scored four goals with three assists from a forward spot last season, will likely move to center back this season, Holker said. His older brother, Cassidy Duerr (Jr., Blaine, Minn./Spring Lake Park HS) will likely miss much of the regular season with an ACL injury. In his place on the wing will likely be either Lucas Ingram (So., Woodbury, Minn.) or David Long (Jr., Bloomington, Minn./Holy Angels HS). Others who will contend for defensive time will be Mac Miller (So., Rochester, Minn./Lourdes HS), Jordan Bengston (So., Forest Lake, Minn.) and Alex Calof (So., Burnsville, Minn./Lakeville North HS).

There's strong depth at both the midfield and forward positions. On the wing, midfielder Andrew Seidel (Jr., Woodbury, Minn.) has led the team in scoring the last two seasons, and earned All-MIAC honorable-mention honors last season. He scored six goals with five assists last year. Holker described Seidel as "one of the more dangerous players in the conference." Opposite Seidel on the wing will be Ryan Sorensen (So., Plymouth, Minn./Osseo HS), who has solid one-on-one and service skills, Holker noted, along with Josh Stepaniak (So., Woodbury, Minn.).

In the center of the midfield, James See (Jr., Richfield, Minn./Holy Angels HS) returns for his third season as a starter, after earning All-MIAC first-team honors last season. Holker described See as one of the most talented players on the team, and an "important link for our team."

Two big presences will also return to the center of the midfield, in senior Alec Rabine (Sr., St. Louis Park, Minn.) and junior Ryley Teske (Jr., Minneapolis, Minn./Bloomington Lutheran HS). Rabine, an All-MIAC honorable mention selection in 2005, scored four goals last year. Newcomer Matt Bowman (Fr., Maple Grove, Minn.), an all-state honorable mention selection last year, should make an immediate impact as well. Other midfielders that could contend for time include Jake Lor (So., St. Paul, Minn./Central HS), Tyler Henrichs (So., Woodbury, Minn.) and Brian Jungwirth (Jr., Bloomington, Minn./Bloomington Lutheran HS).

Up front, three-year starter Andrew Connor (Sr., Becket, Mass./North Muskegon (Mich.) HS) is back, after scoring six goals last season. Holker said that Connor "has a reputation of finding ways to score goals." Nick Anderson (So., White Bear Lake, Minn.), a reserve last season, has played his way into a varsity role, and could make a strong impact this year.

Two newcomers will also compete for time at forward -- Tyler Seidel (Sr., Woodbury, Minn.), a transfer from St. Thomas with strong athletic skills, and freshman Marc Jacob (Fr., Maple Grove, Minn.). Colby Reineke (So., Faribault, Minn.) and Jake Williams (Fr., Faribault, Minn.) will also contend for time up front.

Bethel

Coach: Pepe Jon Chavez

Career Record: 0-0-0 (1st season)

2006 Finish: 9th (2-8-0 MIAC, 4-13-1 overall)

Bethel Players to Watch

Matt Duer (Sr.)

Jake Haws (Sr.)

Eric Johnson (So.)

Bethel Season Preview

2007 looks to be the beginning of a new culture in Royals soccer. After a tough 2006 season, the Royals return with quality leadership and young experience. Bethel will still be a young team with only 3 returning seniors and 10 junior and sophomore varsity players. A new young team will step in to fill 5 open positions in the Royals starting line up as they battle for a return to the MIAC playoffs.

Offensively, the Royals will rely on Randon Sommars (SJ. Cambridge, MN) and look to several role players to find the back of the net. Bethel will also look for more contribution from experienced midfielders including returning starters Matt Duer (Sr., Andover, MN). Defensively, the Royals will be anchored by defender Jake Haws, a three-year starter (Sr., Fergus Falls, MN).

Add in a strong recruiting class and 2007 has the potential of a return to playoff soccer for the Bethel Royals.

Carleton

Coach: Bob Carlson

Career Record: 90-74-14 (10 seasons)

2006 Finish: Tied 4th (5-3-2 MIAC, 11-5-2 overall)

Carleton Players to Watch

Brett Adelman (So., M, Westminster, Colo./Legacy)

Thomas Ashton (Sr., F, Los Altos, Calif./Bellarmine Prep)

Peter Grassman (Sr., M-D, Evanston, Ill./Evanston Township)

Paul Pedtke (Jr., M, Evanston, Ill./Evanston Township)

Bobby Phillips (Jr., F, Vadnais Heights, Minn./Mounds View)

Brian TenHoor (Jr., F, Eden Prairie, Minn./Minnehaha Academy)

Carleton Season Preview

The Knights look to begin the 2007 season strong after closing the 2006 schedule with a seven-game win streak. That effort will be aided by the return of 18 players—but only three seniors—from last year's squad that equaled the school record with 11 victories.

Among the returnees for the Knights are All-MIAC performers, juniors Bobby Phillips (Vadnais Heights, Minn./Mounds View) and Paul Pedtke (Evanston, Ill./Evanston Township). Phillips led the Knights with 10 goals and four assists last year and also scored four game-winning goals. In his two years at Carleton, he has 16 goals and nine assists. His goal total ranks 12th in Carleton history, and his 41 points has him in a tie for seventh place on Carleton's all-time scoring list.

Pedtke was named All-MIAC on the merit of his play in conference games. He scored four goals and had three assists overall this season, but all four goals and two of his assists came against MIAC opponents. Pedtke was placed in a more offensive role last season, and responded by being named to the all-conference team for the first time.

Coach Bob Carlson's squad also benefits from the return of captains Peter Grassman (Evanston, Ill./Evanston Township) and Thomas Ashton (Los Altos, Calif./Bellarmine Prep).

Carlson can't help but enjoy the fact that 10 of his top 12 scorers from a year ago returned for the 2007 season. The Knights were the top scoring offense in the MIAC last year, averaging 2.67 goals per game, which ranked 27th in the nation.

Concordia

Coach: Dan Weiler

Career Record: 0-0-0 (1st season)

2006 Finish: 11th (0-9-1 MIAC, 4-12-1 overall)

Concordia Players to Watch

Mads Schmidt (Jr., GK, Rodding, Denmark)

Chad Morlock (Sr., D, Moorhead, Minn.)

Matt Klein (Sr., M/D, Fergus Falls, Minn.)

Concordia Season Preview

Welcome to the great unknown. That will be the theme for the 2007 Concordia men's soccer team. It's been three years and two head coaches since the Cobbers have posted a conference victory. The 30-game drought has brought on a new head coach and a newly injected brand of enthusiasm. Cobber women's soccer coach Dan Weiler was brought on to lead the men with the hopes that he will accomplish the same feat with the men. Weiler took a downtrodden women's program and in the course of five seasons, brought them to the top of the MIAC by winning a regular-season conference championship and also a conference playoff title.

Weiler's task with the men will have to take on the same step-by-step, steady as you go, tone that he used with the women. Not only have the Cobbers not won a conference game since the 2003 campaign, but this year's team will also not have the top three scorers from 2006.

It is not all bad news for the Cobbers. Weiler brought in 13 new players who will infuse the program with energy and the lack of knowledge of what has happened in the past. CC also has a solid nucleus of talented players returning that will be hungry for conference success in 2007.

Weiler will stress defense first in 2007, hoping to give Concordia a chance in every game. That will fit the strength of the returning players as team captains Chad Morlock (Sr., Moorhead, Minn.) and goalkeeper Mads Schmidt (Jr., RoddingDenmark) will both provide key roles in putting together a much stingier defense. In 2006, the Cobbers allowed a league worst 29 goals. That will have to improve if CC has a chance at claiming any wins inside MIAC play.

Offensively the team could stumble in the early stages of the season before some of the newcomers get used to the fast pace and physical nature of collegiate defenses. Not returning from last year are the top three goalscorers, Brandon Root, Kwaku Opoku and Caleb Hussman. The top returning point getter from a year ago is Mergim Vllahiu (So., West Fargo, N.D.) who netted only five points.

Weiler will have to take a little of the old and mix it with a heaping helping of the new to come up with any sustained offense. Genna Patselov (Jr., Fargo, N.D./Fargo North HS) and Matt Klein (Sr., Fergus Falls, Minn.) will both have a chance to get more scoring opportunities in 2007. They will also be called upon to help the first-year players adjust to a different pace of play.

If the Cobbers show patience and are able to stay close to conference foes throughout the game, then the end of the MIAC losing streak should become a reality and Weiler's rebuilding process should be right on course.

For more on Cobber men's soccer go to: www.cord.edu/dept/sports/fall/ms/index.php

Gustavus

Coach: Larry Zelenz

Career Record: 242-99-40 (21 seasons)

2006 Finish: Tied 1st (9-1-0 MIAC, 18-3-1 overall)

Gustavus Players to Watch

Mike Butterworth (Sr., F, 6-2, Anchorage, Alaska)

Jeffrey Johnson (Sr., MF, 5-8, Tonka Bay, Minn)

Flynn Stewart-Franzen (Jr., D, 6-4, Minneapolis, Minn.)

Sam Barthell (Sr., D, 6-0, Bloomington, Minn.)

Ben Heupel (Sr., D, 5-11, Maple Grove, Minn.)

Gustavus Season Preview

The Gustavus Adolphus College men's soccer teams has high hopes for the 2007 season as 12 seniors return from a squad that was co-champions of the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (MIAC) in 2006 and also won the MIAC Post-Season Tournament. Coach Larry Zelenz will rely on all-region senior forward Mike Butterworth as well as three-year starters Jeffrey Johnson (midfielder) and Ben Heupel (defense) to lead a squad that begins the year ranked 18th in the d3kicks.com poll and 23rd in the National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA) Division III poll.

Butterworth (Anchorage, AK), a senior captain, contributed nearly a quarter of the offense last year scoring 23 points (9 goals, 5 assists). His exceptional speed and ball control skills will make him a primary target for center midfielder Jeffrey Johnson (Tonka Bay, MN), who is the other senior captain on this year's squad. Johnson is a talented distributor of the ball who will be one of the top midfielders in the conference and region this year. Sophomore Fraser Horton (Missoula, MT) will join Johnson in the middle, while senior Ryan Beduhn (St. Cloud, MN), senior Jack Underwood (Fergus Falls, MN), and freshman Max Malmquist (Salt Lake City, UT) will rotate into the outside midfield spots. A key addition up front will be sophomore transfer Bret Vander Streek. Vander Streek, a native of Pella, Iowa, was a starter at Division I Saint Francis University (Penn.) last year.

Gustavus will look to continue its tradition of stingy defense as its defensive core returns all four starters including senior Sam Barthell (Bloomington, MN), junior Flynn Stewart-Franzen (Minneapolis, MN), senior Ben Heupel (Maple Grove, MN), and senior Matt Strom (Plymouth, MN). The biggest question for Zelenz in regards to the defense is who will be between the posts this season. With the graduation of Tyler Garry, any starting goalkeeper will have little experience at the collegiate level. Four players are contenders for the starting goalkeeper job including senior Trevor Brown (Madison, WI), sophomore Josh Busacker (Orono, MN), and first-year students Luke Strom (Plymouth, MN) and Steve Lundberg (Apple Valley, MN).

The Golden Gusties will be tested early as they play St. Norbert, another team that lost in the second round of the NCAA tournament, on neutral territory September 8th. A rematch against co-MIAC conference winner St. John's takes place September 22nd in Collegeville. The Johnnies handed Gustavus its only conference loss a year ago. The biggest test will come during a two-week span in October when the team will host emerging Augsburg, perennial MIAC contender Macalester and 10th ranked UC-Santa Cruz.

Hamline

Coach: Andrew Coutts

Career Record: 60-71-11 (8 seasons)

2006 Finish: Tied 4th (5-3-2 MIAC, 12-5-2 overall)

Hamline Players to Watch

Mike Landerholm (Jr., M, 6-0, Apple Valley, Minn./Eastview)

Courtney Duffield (So., M, 5-9, Milan, Ill./Alleman Catholic)

Andrew Clement (Sr., GK, 5-11, Victoria, Minn./Minnetonka)

Andrew Sauceman (Fy., D, 6-1, Hudson, Wis./Hudson)

Dave Donner (Fy., M, 6-0, Stillwater, Minn./Stillwater)

Hamline Season Preview

After losing the player who scored nearly half of the goals on a team that made it to the finals of the 2006 MIAC tournament, head coach Andy Coutts looks to fill that void on the 2007 men's soccer team by committee, counting on hard-working returners and athletic newcomers.

"This year, we are going to have to get goals from a variety of players, whereas last season we could rely on one pair of shoes," said Coutts, referring to the 2006 MIAC Most Valuable Player, Jacob Helling. Exactly how that will all shape up remains to be seen, as several returning players and many newcomers will battle it out for roles on the team.

"It's hard to predict where and how much everyone will play. In a change from the previous two seasons, positions are wide open," said Coutts. "We have a lot of returners who didn't see much playing time last year but have great potential, and a lot of athletic newcomers, all of whom have the ability to compete for the chance to get on the field. I'm excited to see who steps up, and I'm hopeful that it's a long list."

Last season, Helling scored 14 of the Pipers' 32 goals, adding on 4 assists, for a total of 32 points. To help replace his points, one thing that Coutts may not have to leave up to chance will be the performance of a pair of returning players in junior Mike Landerholm (Apple Valley, MN) and sophomore Courtney Duffield (Milan, IL). They should set up to be the core of the midfield, with senior Nate Anderson (Cottage Grove, MN), junior Mike Buehler (Cumming, IA), sophomore Evan Falon (Minneapolis, MN), and newcomer Dave Donner (Stillwater, MN) providing great depth.

Joining Landerholm and Duffield on the list of returning players Coutts hopes to rely upon are senior Jason Engedal (Eau Claire, WI); juniors Jason Werthmann (Osceola, WI) and Drew Lukas (Edina, MN) and sophomore Matt Warhol (Andover, MN). "We'll need to count on these guys to create and finish scoring chances in a variety of ways," Coutts said of his offense. "All of them are very athletic and have attacking mentalities, so their goal production will likely be key to our success."

On the other side of the ball, Coutts will look to first-year Andrew Sauceman (Hudson, WI) for strong defense in front of senior goalkeeper Andrew Clement (Victoria, MN). If Clement can fight off sophomores Kevin Hogan (Moline, IL) and John Moening (Minneapolis, MN) to retain his position in goal, his fourth year in the starting position should pay off for the Pipers. "Clement has improved tremendously, and is extremely reliable. He is capable of making the key saves in a game that make all the difference," said Coutts.

Returning senior Arron Wight (White Bear Lake, MN) and juniors Kellen Feeney (Nevada, IA), Dan Frush (Minneapolis, MN) and Danny McMahon (Sister Bay, WI) will provide Sauceman with veteran leadership on defense, as well. In 2006, the Piper defense lacked players with extensive experience, having returned only one starting defender from the 2005 season. This year, Coutts looks to this core of players to help Hamline defend better as a team.

With a total of seven first-years and two transfer students joining the Pipers this season, Coutts doesn't have any concerns about whether the younger players on the team will be able to keep up physically. The wild card comes in how quickly they make the adjustment to the college game. "Whether they can help us right away depends on how soon they can get the soccer part down," said Coutts. "Athletically, they're ready."

Coutts does expect the competition to get into the MIAC playoffs to be tough, seeing great depth in the conference, much like in 2006. "The challenging part about competing in the MIAC is that even the 8th and 9th place teams are going to be very good teams."

By returning 17 letter winners and adding several new contributors to the field, Hamline looks to stay in playoff contention. "One great thing about this team is that following two consecutive seasons of playoff appearances, nearly every player knows what it's like to succeed at this level. They expect to win, because many of them have never not been to the MIAC playoffs," said Coutts when reflecting upon the potential of his team.

Macalester

Co-Coaches: John Leaney and Ian Barker

Career Record: Leaney: 236-89-36 (19 seasons), Barker: 43-26-7 (4 seasons)

2006 Finish: 7th (5-5-0 MIAC, 8-8-1 overall)

Macalester Players to Watch

Carson Gorecki (Jr., F, Mahtomedi, Minn.)

Jake Roche (So., F, Lincoln, Neb./East)

Adric Mueller (Sr., F, Madison, Wis.)

Alex Whitworth (Sr., MF, Forest City, N.C./NCSSM)

Ryan Palmer (Sr., GK, Helena, Mont./Capital)

Macalester Season Preview

Macalester won its season-finale last year to finish at 8-8-1 and avoid its first losing season since 1986 and is hungry to return among the league's elite teams in '07 after claiming MIAC championships seven times in nine years between 1997 and 2005. The Scots graduated All-MIAC defender Jeff Rogers and standout midfielder Magnus Oppenheimer, but still have plenty of experience and talent back from last year's 5-5 MIAC team.

Barker and co-head coach John Leaney will look to take advantage of the goal-scoring abilities of All-MIAC forward Carson Gorecki (Jr., Mahtomedi, Minn.) and Jake Rocke (So., Lincoln, Neb. / East). Gorecki tied for the league leadership in points and shots and was third in goals, and on the campaign provided the team with nine goals and four assists. The All-West region pick netted three game-winners, including two in overtime. Rocke added four goals and three assists. Gorecki and Rocke scored or assisted on 18 of the team's 23 goals, so for Macalester to improve, other veterans or newcomers will have to give the Scots offensive punch.

The Scots do welcome back striker Adric Mueller (Sr., Madison, Wis. / West) from sabbatical to further strengthen the Macalester frontline. He contributed six goals a couple seasons ago. Alex Whitworth (Sr., Forest City, N.C. / North Carolina School of Science & Mathematics) and Mike Samuelson (Jr., Bethesda, Md. / Bethesda-Chevy Chase) accounted for two goals apiece in '06.

The Scots return reliable goalkeeper Ryan Palmer (Sr., Helena, Mont. / Capital), the team's primary starter in front of the net for the past three seasons. Palmer owns a 1.09 career goals against average. Challenging Palmer between the posts will be Evan Mitchell (Sr., Minneapolis, Minn. / South), who made several standout appearances in goal in '06.

Other key Macalester returners include forward Nate Van Wylen (Jr., Northfield, Minn.), midfielder Jeff Swick (Jr., Fond-du-lac, Wis. / Goodrich), defender David Hanold (Jr., Sharon, Mass.), defender Andrew Mykletun (Sr., Nesbru, Norway / Washington International), forward Grant Stegner (Sr., Edina, Minn.) and midfielder Pat Wright (Sr., St Paul, Minn. / St. Paul Academy)

See the complete Macalester season outlook at:

http://www.macalester.edu/athletics/msoccer/news/07_0615_season_outlook.html

Saint John's

Coach: Pat Haws

Career Record: 318-117-45 (29 seasons)

2006 Finish: Tied 1st (9-1-0 MIAC, 13-4-1 overall)

Saint John's Players to Watch

- **Brian Mills** (Sr., D, White Bear Lake, Minn./St. Paul Academy)

Matt Sundberg (Sr., GK, Wayzata, Minn./Wayzata)

A.J. Tufte (Sr., D, Plymouth, Minn./Wayzata)

Jerome D'Alessandro (Sr., MF, Maple Grove, Minn./Osseo)

Tyler Kodet (Jr., F, Rochester, Minn./Lourdes)

Brian Horst (Jr., F, Stillwater, Minn./Stillwater Area)

Saint John's Season Preview

The 2007 Saint John's University soccer team is hopeful that a solid combination of talented youth and experience will place themselves in contention for another conference title. The Johnnies are expected to lose just three starters from the 2006 team that earned a share of the MIAC regular season title with a 9-1-0 conference record and a 13-4-1 overall record.

The Johnnies are expected to return four forwards from a year ago: senior Levi Glines (Minneapolis, Minn./Coon Rapids), senior John Krebsbach (St. Cloud, Minn./Cathedral), junior Brian Horst (Stillwater, Minn.) and junior Tyler Kodet (Rochester, Minn./Lourdes). Kodet led SJU in scoring last season with 16 points (5g/6a) and finished tied for first in the MIAC for assists, assists per game (0.38) and was named to the All-MIAC First Team. Horst was fifth in the MIAC with 0.27 assists per game.

Senior Ben Passe (Oronoco/Rochester Lourdes) is expected to once again lead the midfielders this season. Passe was named to the All-MIAC First Team and the D3kicks.com All-West Region Soccer Third Team last season. Passe also received a number of academic honors in 2006 as he was named to the ESPN The Magazine Academic All-America College Division Men's Soccer First Team and the CoSIDA Academic All-District V College Division Men's Soccer First Team. The other returning Johnnie midfielders include seniors Jerome D'Alessandro (Maple Grove, Minn./Osseo), a 2005 All-MIAC Honorable Mention selection, Ben Kachan (Edina, Minn.) and Justin Swierk (Plymouth, Minn./Wayzata); juniors Kellen Groves (Stillwater, Minn.), Mike Jacobson (Golden Valley, Minn./Benilde-St. Margaret's) and Levi Lowell (Stillwater, Minn.), and sophomores Jake Archibald (Wayzata, Minn.), Eric Bell (Little Falls, Minn.) and Paul Keane (Rochester, Minn./Mayo).

Senior Bryan Mills (White Bear Lake, Minn./St. Paul Academy) will headline a returning defensive corps that includes four other talented players: senior A.J. Tufte (Plymouth, Minn./Wayzata), junior Jason Daly (Eden Prairie, Minn.), junior Chris Schultz (Coon Rapids, Minn.), and junior Cam Christensen (Bismarck, N.D./St. Mary's). Mills was named to the NSCAA All-Far West Region Soccer Third Team, D3kicks.com All-West Region Soccer Second Team and All-MIAC First Team last season. Daly was named to the 2006 CoSIDA Academic All-District V College Division Men's Soccer First Team, while Schultz was an All-MIAC Honorable Mention selection last fall.

The Johnnies will once again be strong in net as senior Matt Sundberg (Wayzata, Minn.), sophomore Sean Hasselstrom (Edina, Minn.) and sophomore Lucas Nelson (Caledonia, Minn.) return as goalkeepers this season. Sundberg recorded a 13-4-1 record in net with 78 saves, a .867 save percentage and 6 shutouts last season. Hasselstrom and Nelson contributed two saves each in relief duties last season.

Saint John's will need to replace Sebastian Gomes, Nick Menth and Jeff Amble, who all graduated last spring. Gomes finished fifth on the team in both points (8) and goals (3). Amble was selected to the All-MIAC Honorable Mention team. Amble was second in the team for assists (5) and 10th in shots on goal (15). Gomes and Amble tied for eighth within the conference for assists.

Head coach Pat Haws, a 1972 graduate of Saint John's, will begin his 30th season at the helm of the Johnnies' soccer program. Last season, Haws led SJU to its first MIAC regular season title in over 15 years. The winningest coach in Minnesota college soccer history, Haws owns a 318-117-45 (.709) career record and a 206-62-28 (.743) MIAC record with seven conference titles to his credit. Entering the 2007 season, Haws is 16th among active coaches and 24th all-time in NCAA Division III in career victories. Haws' career winning percentage of .709 is 23rd among active coaches and 28th all-time in NCAA Division III history.

SJU has seven home matches on its 2007 season schedule, including a season-opening pair of matches on Sept. 1 and 2, against Luther, Iowa, and Nebraska Wesleyan, respectively. Saint John's will play host to St. Thomas on Sept. 12 and fellow 2006 conference champion Gustavus Adolphus on Sept. 22. For the fifth consecutive season, the MIAC will conduct a four-team postseason tournament beginning on Oct. 31, with the champion receiving an automatic bid into the NCAA Tournament.

Saint Mary's

Coach: Chris Dembiec

Career Record: 4-12-0 (1 season)

2006 Finish: 10th (1-9-0 MIAC, 4-12-0 overall)

Saint Mary's Players to Watch
Jon Szafranski (So., 6-1, GK, Barrington, Ill.)
James Kuhnle (Jr., 5-10, Mid., Burlington, Wis.)
Andy Neu (Jr., 5-9, For., Inver Grove Heights., Minn.)

Saint Mary's Season Preview

As if trying to figure out how to replace his leading scorer — who accounted for nearly one-third of the Saint Mary's University men's soccer team's goals a year ago — wasn't tough enough, Chris Dembiec's work load just got a bit heavier.

In fact, it doubled.

Dembiec, entering his second season as the SMU men's soccer coach, added "head women's soccer coach" to his title on Aug. 8, replacing Tony Guinn, who stepped down on Tuesday to accept the head soccer position at Western Illinois State University.

"Organization is going to be the key — that, and a whole lot of energy," said Dembiec, who guided the Cardinal men to a 4-12-0 record in his first year at the helm a year ago. "(Coaching both soccer teams) isn't unheard of at the (NCAA) Division III level, and many schools have had great success with it.

"I'm excited about the opportunity," Dembiec added. "For me personally, it's going to mean double the training sessions, double the games — and double the headaches — but we've put together an outstanding coaching staff, which will make my life a little easier."

Replacing Mike Schmitt, on the other hand, won't be so easy.

A two-time All-Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference selection, Schmitt was the team's leader in all three offensive categories a year ago, collecting nine goals and four assists for 22 points. Schmitt's nine goals were one shy of his career high and his 22 points were a career best. A four-year starter, Schmitt closed out his four-year collegiate career with 26 goals, ranking him No. 2 all-time, 10 goals behind SMU Hall of Famer Jerad Rassmussen.

Numbers like that aren't easily replaced.

"We don't have a guy like Mike — that pure goal scorer who can take on any defender one-on-one and beat him to the goal — on our roster," admitted Dembiec. "We're going to have to find someone to step up and fill that role, but right now, I don't see anyone putting up nine goals and 22 points like Mike did last year."

Which, surprisingly, isn't all bad.

"Offensively, we weren't all that deep last year, which allowed teams to key on Mike," said Dembiec, whose team was 1-9-0 when Schmitt was held without a goal last year. "This year, we will be much deeper, and, hopefully, that will open things up a bit for us on the offensive end."

Dembiec may not be sure who's going to be putting the ball in the net for the Cardinals, but he's sure who will be keeping it out, as goalkeeper Jon Szafranski (Barrington, Ill. / 1.93 GAA, .793 save %) is back.

"It's really tough to say how we'll be this season — with so many new guys, it's definitely going to take some time for everyone to meld together," said Dembiec, who roster will have 21 new faces among the 29 on the early-season roster. "There are a lot of unknowns at this point, but there's no question in my mind we will be a better team than we were a year ago."

St. Olaf
Coach: Kurt Anderson
Career Record: 170-119-19 (18 seasons)
2006 Finish: 8th (3-5-2 MIAC, 6-10-2 overall)

St. Olaf Players to Watch
Jacob Meyer (Sr., Madison, Wis./East)
Nathan Langholz (Sr., Decorah, Iowa)
Mark Zeitlow (Jr., Rochester, Minn./Mayo)
Bobby Anderson (Sr., Oak Grove, Minn./St. Francis)
Eric Smith (Sr., Bainbridge Island, Wash.)

St. Olaf Season Preview

The St. Olaf men's soccer team enters the 2007 season with an experienced group determined at getting the Oles to compete for a top spot in the MIAC.

Ten seniors and 18 players who saw extensive time on varsity in 2006 will highlight the 2007 roster.

"We have a good corps of varsity players from last season. Almost everyone is healthy now, and all the injuries we had last year were a large part of our problems," said Head Coach Kurt Anderson.

Anderson, in his 19th year, also stressed the importance of offense in the upcoming season. The Oles only managed to score 19 goals in 18 games in 2006. "We did well defensively last year, but we need to do a better job on the offensive side. Hopefully we can have someone step up and find a way to score. That will help a lot," said Anderson.

Senior captain Jacob Meyer (Madison, Wis./East) could be one of the many forwards who could make the scoring impact that Coach Anderson is looking for. Meyer leads St. Olaf in goals scored (8) since the start of the 2005 season. Fellow senior Nathan Langholz (Decorah, Iowa) will see many minutes at forward as he is now healthy. Nathan Swenson (Soph., De Pere, Wis.) will see more time up front this season and will add energy to the offense.

The Oles are also hoping to see a big impact from Scott Crider (Soph., Downers Grove, Ill.), who sat out last season due to injury.

The midfield will be patrolled by a solid group of players. Senior Mike Peabody (Whitewater, Wis.) will look to take control in the middle. He will get help from junior Barrett Kennedy (Eagan, Minn.), who started every game last season. His younger brother, Phil Kennedy (Soph., Eagan, Minn.) led the Oles in assists (3) and was second in points (7) in 2006.

Junior Mark Zeitlow (Rochester, Minn./Mayo) has earned 12 points in his first two seasons and his younger brother John Zietlow (Rochester, Minn./Mayo) aims to have an immediate impact this season. Senior Brandon McCafferty (Great Falls, Mont.) and junior Bjorn Carlson (Northfield, Minn.) could boast the Oles' midfield as well.

In the back, Anderson knows it will be tough to fill the void left open by two-time All-MIAC D Andrew Gastineau who graduated. "It's not easy to replace Andrew in the back, hopefully one of our five or six guys can step up in his place. He was a mainstay in our lineup, he had the ability to change the complexion of the game."

Even without Gastineau in the lineup, the Oles have a veteran group of defenders. The Oles boast a group of four seniors led by captain Bobby Anderson (Oak Grove, Minn./St. Francis). Karl Gleason (Sr., Northfield, Minn.), Patrick Rosemas (Sr., Littleton, Colo.) and Jose Martinez (Sr., Puetro Vallarta, Mexico/Collegio Americana) round out the senior defenders. Sophomore Eric Van Mechelen (Soph., Houston) will also play a key role this year, as he started 12 games last season.

Sophomore David Anderson (Oak Grove, Minn.) and junior Ryan Doyle (Duluth, Minn./East) look to step up to varsity this season.

Senior captain Eric Smith (Bainbridge Island, Wash.) will return in goal this season. Smith started 15 games last season, compiled 69 saves and was third in the MIAC in shutouts (7).

Junior Kevin Friede (Edina, Minn.) is a solid backup and gives the Oles two very competent goalkeepers. Friede started two games in 2006 and had 13 saves.

First Year players Alex Kuehl (Rochester, Minn./John Marshall) and Brad Bond (San Jose, Calif./Bellarmine) will compete for the third-string goalkeeper.

St. Thomas

Coach: Aaron Macke

Career Record: 55-25-10 (5 seasons)

2006 Finish: Tied 4th (5-3-2 MIAC, 10-5-3 overall)

St. Thomas Players to Watch

Joe Voeller (Sr., F)

Max Weber (Sr., F)

Adam Michalik (Sr., MF)

Eric Schmitt (Sr., D)

Dan Hutton (Sr., GK)

St. Thomas Season Preview

St. Thomas missed an MIAC playoff berth on a tiebreaker in 2006 and the Tommies hope they have the depth and experience to return to the postseason this fall.

Coach Aaron Macke returns 16 players from a 10-5-3 finish of 2006. The Tommies will be seriously tested right out of the gate as they play five nationally- or regionally-ranked teams in the first three weeks of September. After starting Aug. 31 vs. a solid Carroll (Wis.) team, the Toms face No. 3-ranked Dominican (Ill.) (20-2-2 last season) on Sept. 2; on a Sept. 7-8 trip to California will play NAIA's No. 9-ranked Concordia (Calif.) (14-5-1 last year) and either No. 4-ranked UC-Santa Cruz (21-0-2 last year) or No. 16-ranked Redlands (20-2). The Toms also play MIAC contenders and regional powers St. John's and Augsburg on the road in September.

After two home games to start, the Toms play eight of their next 10 games on the road or neutral fields.

The Toms are led by five seniors -- All-MIAC forward Joe Voeller; forward Max Weber; midfielder Adam Michalik; defender Eric Schmitt; and goalkeeper Dan Hutton.

Voeller has played in 35 games over two seasons at UST and has 26 points (11 goals, four assists). Voeller shared the team lead in scoring in 2006 with seven goals and three assists. In all three Tommie ties (1-1), Voeller scored the team's only goal, including the tying goal vs. Augsburg in the 84th minute. He also scored the winning goal in the 84th minute to beat Carroll (Wis.), 3-2. Schmitt, who was named honorable mention All-MIAC, has started 33 games on his two-year career on defense. Weber has played in 48 games and has 29 career points (eight goals, 13 assists), including two game-winning goals in overtime. Michalik has played in 39 games with four goals and three assists. Hutton has played in goal in 32 games (18 starts) and has 12 solo or combined shutouts.

Other productive scorers back at forward are senior Thomas Gjervold (three goals, one assist in 2006), junior Andy Gikling (five goals, four assists) and soph Henry Ndawula (three goals, three assists).