

2000-01 MIAC Softball Preview

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MIAC Softball

The MIAC softball conference season gets underway April 4. Defending MIAC Champions St. Thomas looks to compete for the top spot again this year, along with last years 2000 NCAA National Champion Saint Mary's.

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Augsburg College

Head Coach: Carol Enke (16th season)

2000 Record: 15-23 (11-11 MIAC / 7th)

Key Returners: (Name, Yr, Pos, Highlight)

Rachael Ekholm (Jr., Richfield, Minn.)

Mindy Evers (Jr., Comfrey, Minn.)

Jennie LaManna (Jr., South St. Paul, Minn.)

Jennifer Lemke (So., Kenyon, Minn./Kenyon-Wanamingo HS)

Karen Tweeten (Jr., Spring Grove)

Season Preview:

Versatility may be the key to the fortunes of the Augsburg College softball team this season.

With nine letterwinners returning to the Auggie roster, combined with one of the most talented and deep group of newcomers in recent years, head coach Carol Enke will have plenty of options for her lineup this season, as the Auggies hope to improve upon last year's 15-23 overall finish and 11-11, seventh-place finish in the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

"We're young, but we're talented," said Enke of her lineup, which includes just one senior and six juniors. "We should have a lot of options defensively. We have lots of players who can play multiple positions, they have better than average speed and they can hit. We have a lot of people who can fit right into our lineup.

"We have some good, young kids who can come in and make an impact right away for us."

Enke said a key to Auggie improvement this season will be keeping the players -- in particular seven who were on winter sports teams this season -- healthy, and manufacturing runs. Last year, despite a speedy lineup, Augsburg stranded 252 runners on base and had just 110 runs batted in to go with a slender .342 on-base percentage, numbers that will have to improve if Enke's goals for the season are to be realized.

"I'm very excited about this team," Enke said. "I think we can finish in the top half of the conference. We're going to Florida with our whole team this year; last year, we didn't have our whole team available to play until April. This team has speed, some power and a sense for the game."

Keying the Auggie attack this season will be Rachael Ekholm (Jr., Richfield, Minn.), who earned All-MIAC honors last season and who is considered one of the top returning pitchers in the conference. She pitched the bulk of Auggie innings last year and produced a 10-11 record, 2.85 earned-run average and 96 strikeouts. Her 51 strikeouts in conference play was the fifth-best total in the league last year.

"She will get as many innings as we can give her," Enke said.

In addition to Ekholm's prowess in the pitching circle and on defense as a shortstop when not pitching, she was equally as effective at the plate, leading the team with a .381 average, 14 extra-base hits (four home runs) and a solid .648 slugging percentage.

Bethel College

Head Coach: Darin Thompson (44-68-1 (3 years at BC))

2000 Record: 11-28-1 (6-16 MIAC / 10th-tie)

Key Returners: (Name, Yr, Pos, Highlight)

Lindsey Porter, Senior, Catcher 40 games, 4 doubles 1 triple, 15 RBI's, .283 BA

Karrie Bateman, Sophomore OF 36 games, 4 doubles, 1 triples, 1 HR, 10 RBI's, 6 SB, .248 BA

Emily Conover, Sophomore, 1B 40 games, 6 doubles, 2 triples, 1 HR, 19 RBI's, 7 SB, .305 BA

Heather Bauman, Sophomore, 3B 35 games, 3 doubles, 1 triple, 9 RBI's .299 BA

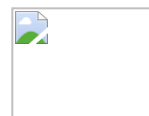
Kristin Lundeen Sophomore, P 24 games 2 wins 3 loses 2 saves 6.07

Season Preview:

With the loss of four starters, including All-MIAC outfielder Shannon Essler, and All-MIAC honorable-mention players Sara Carlson (pitcher, second base) and Meghan Green (Outfield), fourth-year head coach Darin Thompson will look to a young, yet talented, group of players to improve on last year's 11th place finish in the MIAC.

Senior catcher Lindsey Porter (Tustin, CA) batted .283 as a junior when she started 40 games and had 15 RBIs, which is second among returning players. Sophomores Karrie Bateman, Emily Conover, Heather Bauman, and Kristin Lundeen will be called upon to lead the young squad. Conover batted .305 and tied for the team lead with 19 RBIs in her first year. Bateman and Conover hit the Royals only homeruns of the 2000 campaign. Lundeen (6.07 ERA in 2000) was the team's number two pitcher in 2000 and will step up to the top spot this year.

Coach Thompson welcomes a quality group of newcomers to the squad and hopes that with the experience gained in the nonconference schedule can rise in the MIAC standings.



Carleton College

Head Coach: Amy Tenute (fourth season)

2000 Record: 21-13 (12-10 MIAC / 6th)

Key Returners: (Name, Yr, Pos, Highlight)

Laura Espinosa, Sr., C/SS, All-Region, two-time All-MIAC, .376, 12 2B, 32 RBI

Fauna Smith, Sr., P, First Team All-MIAC, 14-8 with a 2.41 ERA, led conference in strikeouts (103) and innings pitched (87), set team record for overall strikeouts with 176.

Ly Nguyen, Jr., 2B, .301 BA, 25 runs, 11 SB

Cecily Schrader, So., 1B, .315 BA, 28 hits, 5 doubles, 5 triples

Season Preview:

For the first time in years, the Carleton softball team is heading into a new season with a winning record and confident determination that they can improve on it. Head Coach Amy Tenute believes the Knights can finish in the top three in the MIAC or even win the championship. Among the reasons to be optimistic are star players Laura Espinosa (St. Paul, Minn./Central) and Fauna Smith (Willits, Calif.) who will be seniors and team captains this year. Both players were named All-MIAC for the past two years and Espinosa was named to the All-Region third team last year. Junior Ly Nguyen (Golden Valley, Minn./Hopkins) will also serve as captain and take the leadoff spot in the line-up. Smith, who led the league in strikeouts for the second consecutive year in 2000, posted a 14-8 mark last season with a career-best 2.36 ERA. She fanned 176 batters in 142.1 innings of work, as opponents hit only 1.93 against her. She will share pitching duties with newcomer Andrea Carroll, (So./Bloomington, Minn./Jefferson) a transfer student from Cornell University, a Division I school. The two should form a formidable pitching duo.



Concordia College

Head Coach: Steve Baumgartner (15th season)

2000 Record: 22-19 (14-8 MIAC / 3rd)

Key Returners: (Name, Yr, Pos, Highlight)

-Heather Stohs (IF, Sr., Perham, MN) - Three-year starter, career .277 average, led team in triples in 2000.

-Christine Moen (P, Sr., Glenwood, MN) - 3.27 era in 2000, led team in saves.

-Amanda Schindeldecker (IF, Jr., Menahga, MN) - 2-year starter at 3B, led team in assists & 2nd on the team in HR's in 2000.

-Kathy Braun (IF, Jr., Willmar, MN) - Two-year starter at 2B, third on the team in BA and on-base pct. in 2000.

-Erin Gunderson (P, Jr., Princeton, MN) - Two-time All-Region and All-MIAC selection. Top five in the MIAC in ERA and K's.

-Jill Pontius (C, Jr., Eagle Bend, MN) - Team Leader in 2000 in batting average(.368), slugging pct.(.544) & on-base pct.(.406).

Season Preview:

The Concordia College softball team is hoping to reach the final frontier this season. The past two seasons the Cobbers have finished third, and narrowly missed being selected for the postseason. This year the team is looking to break on through to the top two and gain their first-ever bid to the NCAA tournament.

Steve Baumgartner enters his 15th year as head coach optimistic that a solid 1-2 pitching combination will push them to the edge of their goals. Offensively Concordia will look to strengthen the middle of the lineup to replace two-time All-MIAC centerfielder Cindy Frey (St. Paul, MN) who graduated last spring. The other hole to fill is at shortstop where four-year starter Laura Danielson (Bemidji, MN), who also graduated, solidified the left side of the infield with her range and athleticism.

The foundation for Concordia this year will be two-time All-Region and All-MIAC pitcher Erin Gunderson (Jr., Princeton, MN). Gunderson was in the top five in the conference in every pitching category in 2000, and currently holds every pitching mark in the school record book. She won 19 games last year and struck out 141 batters in 179 innings of work. She also held opponents to a .183 average in her 31 games. Adding a solid 1-2 punch will be senior hurler Christine Moen (Glenwood, MN). Moen is a three-year starter who led the Cobbers in saves last year and has a 3.49 career ERA.

Concordia returns four of their top five hitters in 2001. Leading the hit parade is junior catcher Jill Pontius (Eagle Bend, MN). Pontius was the team leader in batting average, on-base percentage and slugging percentage. Kathy Braun (Jr., Willmar, MN) a three-year starter at second base, will return as the leadoff hitter. She finished the 2000 season third on the team in batting average and on-base percentage. Designated player Heather Stohs (Sr., Perham, MN), Pontius and Gunderson will give the Cobbers a potent top four in the batting order. Stohs, a career .277 hitter, led the team in at-bats last year. Finding a bottom five in the order that can threaten consistently will be a priority for Baumgartner. Junior Amanda Schindeldecker (Menahga, MN) and sophomores Jill Flatau (Perham, MN) and Becky Bouwman (Glenwood, MN) will be called on to consistently provide run support to the offense. Flatau finished her first year with a .284 average and a .405 slugging percentage.

In the field Concordia has two key spots to fill in the middle of the diamond. Danielson at shortstop and Frey in centerfield were the vocal captains that organized the defense. The right side of the infield will remain intact from last year as Stacie Johnson (So., Belgrade, MN) will benefit from a years experience at first base and Braun provides a strong presence at second. Schindeldecker will anchor the left side as she returns for her third year as the starting thirdbaseman. The biggest question mark on the team will be the starting outfield where only Flatau, Bouwman and fellow sophomore Shyla Wilson (So., Cohasset, MN) return from a year ago.

Concordia will start the year indoors at the University of St. Thomas Invitational on March 9th and 10th with games against Coe (IA), Luther (IA) and host St. Thomas. They open MIAC play three weeks later when they host Augsburg on April 4th. They are home for the first three series in league play before playing on the road for three consecutive series. The critical stretch of the season will be from April 24th through April 28th when the Cobbers play St. Thomas, Carleton and St. Mary's in a five-day stretch. St. Mary's is the defending national champion and St. Thomas is the preseason favorite to win the MIAC.

Gustavus Adolphus College

Head Coach: Shanda Ness (3rd Season)

2000 Record: 18-15 (13-9 MIAC / 4th-tie)

Key Returners: (Name, Yr, Pos, Highlight)

Hope Grover (Sr., LeSueur, Minn., Pitcher, 2000 All-Conference, 10-7 record, 2.22 ERA, 113.2 innings pitched, 70 strikeouts)

Christina Diller (So., Shortstop, Menomonie, Wisc., .352 batting average (37-105), 26 runs scored, 21 stolen bases)

Ellie Roscher (Jr., Utility Player, Mendota Heights, Minn., .333 batting average (27-81))

Julie Langenfeld (So., Outfielder, Rosemount, Minn., .320 batting average (31-97))

Sherrie Thonstad (Sr., Catcher/1st base, Redmond, Oregon, .279 batting average (24-86), five doubles, started all 33 games)

Season Preview:

The Gustavus softball team is optimistic about the 2001 season as six starters return from a team that finished fourth in the MIAC a year ago with a record of 13-9. In addition, Coach Shanda Ness welcomes a talented recruiting class of nine players of which all are expected to contribute in some fashion.

Senior Hope Grover, an all-conference selection last season, will lead the pitching staff along with returners Marlene Kluss and Katie Thompson. In addition, newcomers Molly Biehn and Katy Berquam are expected to be important contributors.

At the plate, two of the team's top three hitters return including sophomore shortstop Christina Diller who led the team with a .352 average and junior utility player Ellie Roscher who hit .333 with a .407 slugging percentage. Newcomers who have shown promise with their bat include Molly Biehn, who has shown significant power, Meghan Shepherd, who is expected to step into the leadoff spot, and Jenny Ebanks and Claire Mielke, who are excellent contact hitters who have also shown that they have some power.

Defensively, the infield looks solid with veteran Jillian Anderson at third, Christina Diller at shortstop, newcomer Meghan Shepherd at second and Molly Biehn at first when she is not pitching. Senior captain Sheri Thonstad will return for her fourth year behind the plate where she has been a mainstay for the Gusties. The outfield is young, but Coach Ness is excited about the possibilities due to the speed and quickness of sophomores Julie Langenfeld (in right field), and Sarah Holm (in center field) and newcomer Claire Mielke (in left field). Others who are expected to contribute include Jamie Regenscheid, and Krystal Kegler.

Hamline University

Head Coach: Janelle Tieken

2000 Record: 7-23 (6-16 MIAC / 10th-tie)

Key Returners: (Name, Yr, Pos, Highlight)

Carie Mackey (SR, Forest Lake)

Katie Buck (SO, Sibley)

Karla Kluzak (SO, Rosemount)

Venda Porter (JR, Port Townsend WA)

Beth Gessler (SR, Jordan/Ridgewater CC)

Mary Boss (SR, Owatonna)

Season Preview:

The softball craze has hit the Hamline campus again! The Pipers return a strong core of returners as well as welcome a talented incoming class of first year athletes. Expectations are high for this youthful and seasoned group. Losing no players to graduation, returning 9 players with extensive playing experience and adding what a could possibly be the strongest recruiting class in HU softball history will make for an exciting 2001 season.

The Pipers are coming off a disheartening 2000 season, but anticipate a huge comeback in 2001. HU returns Carie Mackey (SR, Forest Lake) and Katie Buck (SO, Sibley) on the mound and will be joined by hurler Beth Bisciglia (FY, Sibley). Behind the dish 2000 All-Conference performer, Karla Kluzak (SO, Rosemount) returns and will be complimented by Erin Horne (SO, St Francis). Anchoring the infield at first base, Venda Porter (JR, Port Townsend WA) will be complimented by Beth Gessler (SR, Jordan/Ridgewater CC) at 2nd base, Mary Boss (SR, Owatonna) at third. Marion Zillhardt (FY, Anoka) will be the foundation of the infield at shortstop with Alex Sinkel (FY, Delano) and Julia Rossini (FY, White Bear Lake) competing for starting positions at 2nd and 3rd base, ensures a strong infield on defense.

Emily Deuth (SO, Northfield) will roam the outfield from centerfield and will be joined by All-Conference Honorable Mention performer Jessica Stroeing (SR, Como Park). Lindsay Miller (FY, Forest Lake), Karina Hjelm (FY, White Bear Lake) will push for starting roles in the outfield. They will be joined by Kristi Weeks (FY, Unity, WI). Offensively, expect more punch at the plate, greater aggressiveness on the base path and better execution in the short game. Attack on the opponent's defenses should be felt up and down the line up. With numerous options in the lineup, the Pipers show great potential.

The Pipers will open their season in Fort Meyers FL, competing in the Gene Cusie Classic over spring break. Returning to Minnesota, they will begin their northern competition with non-conference opponents Martin Luther College and UW-River Falls before starting their run through the MIAC. Expect the unexpected this year from the Pipers! HU will be very competitive and plans to play the role of spoiler throughout conference play.

Macalester College

Head Coach: Tina Johnson (3rd season)

2000 Record: 3-33-2 (1-20-1 MIAC / 12th)

Key Returners: (Name, Yr, Pos, Highlight)

Jaclyn Chavez (Sr., P / 6.38 ERA, 75 SO)

Cristin Beach (Jr., 2B / .280, 11 RBI)

Miriah Zajic (So., OF / .253)

Season Preview:

Eager to put last year's frustrating 3-33-2 season behind them, the youthful Macalester Scots are ready to begin the rebuilding of the program and get back to winning ways under third-year head coach Tina Johnson.

The Scots will probably be the youngest team in the MIAC this season as 14 of the 18 players on the roster are newcomers (13 are first-years). The majority of this year's starters will be frosh. Four regulars from a year ago return to provide experience and leadership, although the Scots will sorely miss infielder Kat

Miles, perhaps the best fastpitch softball player ever at Macalester. Miles hit .539 with a .755 slugging percentage in 2000.

Macalester's top returners in 2001 are four-year starting pitcher Jaclyn Chavez (Sr., Santa Fe, NM), Cristin Beach (Jr., Colton, CA / Alta Loma) and Miriah Zajic (So., Lincoln, NE / Southeast). Chavez struck out 75 batters in 176 innings of work as the team's ace last season. Beach, who will be moving from catcher to second base, hit .280 (28-for-100), and outfielder Zajic hit .253 (24-for-95).

College of St. Benedict

Head Coach: Denny Johnson (15th season, 311-135-2)

2000 Record: 22-16 (13-9 MIAC / 4th-tie)

Key Returners: (Name, Yr, Pos, Highlight)

Angie Minnerath, Sr., Catcher, three-year starter, only senior on young team.

Patty McCabe, Jr., Third Base, returning starter, hit .298 last season with 23 Runs Batted In.

Laura Stork, Jr. Pitcher, 6-4 as a first-year athlete.

Rosemary Wolf, Jr. Pitcher, 6-4 last season with a 2.05 Earned Run Average.

Jaclyn Worm, Jr., Outfield, hit .343 last season with 21 Runs Batted In.

Season Preview:

Senior Captain Catcher Angie Minnerath leads a talented and young Blazer softball team into the 2001 season. Minnerath is the lone senior on the squad that finished in fourth place in the MIAC in the 2000 season and she will return to start her fourth consecutive season. Her battery mate of three years, All-MIAC Angie Erickson graduated last spring and Juniors Rosemary Wolf and Captain Laura Stork will fill her big cleats. After a solid first-year Stork suffered a back injury last year that she has now fully recovered from. Both pitchers saw action last season in MIAC play and should split time throwing from the circle. All-MIAC Mary Welle also graduated last spring and several Blazers will have to replace her powerful bat in the lineup. Sophomore Kim Erickson first base, junior outfielder Jaclyn Worm, and Patty McCabe, third base, all hit over .300 in the 2000 season. Several first-year standouts add to the young talent of the Blazers including infielders Ellie Jelsing and Kari Dykhoff, catcher Steph Schirmers, and outfielder Anna Boulay.

Head Coach Denny Johnson is excited about this year's team. "We are a very young team, but the quality of players we have will help us to a successful season and solid play."

College of St. Catherine

Head Coach: Madge Makowske (6th season)

2000 Record: 10-23-1 (6-15-1 MIAC / 8th)

Key Returners: (Name, Yr, Pos, Highlight)

Ana Fernandez SO. Pitcher St. Kate's record holder in season strike outs(74)and innings pitched (172).

Rachel Breckenridge SR. Utility player. St. Kate's Co-Athlete of the Year in 2000.

Kelly Gulden SO. Shortstop. Lead team in batting averages .356 and holds a St. Kate's record for number of hits in a season.

Season Preview:

The 2001 Wildcat Softball Team will come prepared to build on their record breaking 2000 season. A strong core of players will return for St. Kate's, including All-Conference performer Rachel Breckenridge and All-Conference Honorable Mention performer Ana Fernandez. Also returning is Kelly Gulden who led the team in hits last season. Coach Makowske feels that this excellent mix of talent and enthusiasm will continue to build a tradition of excellence.

Saint Mary's University

Head Coach: Nikki Fennern (1st season)

2000 Record: 40-6 (20-2 MIAC / 2nd) - NCAA National Champion

Key Returners: (Name, Yr, Pos, Highlight)

Jill Hocking (Sr., P/1B, Apple Valley, Minn., .465 BA, 41 runs, 59 hits, 59 RBIs, 13 HRs; 16-4, 1.36 ERA, 108.0 IP, 44 Ks, 1st-team All-American)

Jackie Huegel (So., SS, Alta Vista, Iowa, .455 BA, 38 runs, 56 hits, 39 RBIs, 10 doubles, 22 stolen bases)

Ann Munzenmeier (Jr., OF, Urbandale, Iowa, .400 BA, 37 runs, 44 hits, 11 stolen bases)

Jennifer Meyer (Sr., OF, Oconomowoc, Wis., .348 BA, 47 runs, 49 hits, 40 RBIs, 12 doubles, 5 HRs, 25 stolen bases)

Season Preview:

When Nikki Fennern accepted the position as Saint Mary's University fastpitch softball coach following the 2000 season, she knew exactly what she was getting into.

-- The Cardinals had just completed their second-straight 40-win season.

-- SMU had earned a fourth-straight NCAA Regional appearance -- and their first-ever NCAA Division III national tournament appearance.

-- Oh, and they came home with the school's first-ever national championship.

"It's going to be a challenge," admitted Fennern, who spent the last two seasons as a graduate assistant fastpitch coach at South Dakota State University, an NCAA Division II school located in Brookings, S.D. "I would much rather come into a situation like this -- where the expectations are high -- than come into a program where nobody cared whether your team won or lost."

With seven starters returning -- including first-team All-American Jill Hocking (Apple Valley, Minn.) -- a return trip to the national tournament certainly isn't out of the question.

Hocking led the Cardinals in virtually every offensive category a year ago, including batting average (.465), hits (59), RBIs (59), doubles (22), home runs (13), total bases (120) and slugging percentage (.945). Her on-field performance, as well as her academic prowess, earned Hocking a truck-load of post-season honors. She was named to the Louisville Slugger/NFCA All-America team for the third straight time (first-team in 2000, second team in 1999 and third team in 1998), was an NFCA All-Region and all-conference selection for the third straight season, and was named GTE Academic All-America, as well as SMU's outstanding female athlete and outstanding female scholar-athlete.

But Hocking wasn't the only the piece to the Cardinals' championship puzzle in 2000 -- or in their bid for a repeat in 2001.

"This team has all the tools," said Fennern, whose infield remains intact from a year ago -- Jennifer Miller (Winona, Minn.) behind the plate, Gina Rizzardi (Woodbury, Minn.) at third, Jackie Huegel (Alta Vista, Iowa) at short, Niki Lynch (Winona, Minn.) at second and Hocking or Annie Hovde (Cottage Grove, Minn.) at first -- while 1999 second-team All-American Jennifer Meyer (Oconomowoc, Wis.) and Ann Munzenmaier (Urbandale, Iowa) are back roaming the outfield. "They are working very hard and are approaching this season just like they've approached seasons in the past."

St. Olaf College

Head Coach: Lori Littleton Cooling (7th season)

2000 Record: 10-29 (8-14 MIAC / 8th)

Key Returners: (Name, Yr, Pos, Highlight)

Christina Moses Sr. cf Strong hitter/strong arm/solid player

Carrie Cooley Jr. ss Strong defensively/strong at the plate

Sarah Cherry Sr. lf All-conference 2000/#3 Hitter

Grete Christenson Jr. p, rf Top returning pitcher

Kelly Frederick So. c All-conference 2000

Season Preview:

The Oles come into the 2001 season looking to improve on last year's disappointing record. The Oles struggled on the mound and finished the season 10-29 and 8-14 in MIAC play.

Key returning players are this year's senior class. They bring leadership and big bats to the field. The seniors include Christina Moses (New Brighton, MN), Andrea Hatleli (Austin, MN), Sarah Cherry (Faribault, MN), Christy Boraas (Madison, MN) and Amanda Ista (Northfield, MN). The Oles hope to get some help from some key young players on the squad; Kelly Frederick (Wayzata, MN), Rachel Colson (Oak Park, CA), Kirsten Haaland (Billings, MT), Meghan Urbanski (Circle Pines, MN) and Melissa Ohm (Rochester, MN).

University of St. Thomas

Head Coach: John Tschida (starting first season)

2000 Record: 37-10 (21-1 MIAC / 1st)

Key Returners: (Name, Yr, Pos, Highlight)

Casey Curson, SR, RHP, 2X All-MIAC, 20-7, 1.01 ERA; Career: 52-16, 392 Ks, 84 games, 455 IP

Sarah Grudnowski, SR, OF, 2X All-MIAC, .391, 36 hits, 26 runs, 33 SB

Avery Heidenreich, SR, CF, .286, 37 hits, 20 runs, 13 RBI, 19 SB

Shannon Moore, SO, SS, All-MIAC, .333, 43 hits, 32 runs, 29 RBI, 4 HR, 3 3B, 17 walks, 24 SB

Stacy Tamble, SO, LHP, All-MIAC, 9-2, four saves, 1.63 ERA, 82 IP, 85 Ks, 21 walks

Season Preview:

The Toms, ranked 19th in the national Division III preseason poll, return their top three pitchers and six other starters from a 37-10 team that captured the MIAC championship and had a school-record winning streak peak at 23 games. The Toms take a 21-game conference winning streak into the 2001 season.

The St. Thomas softball program starts its 20th season trying to extend three streaks. The Toms have never had a losing season; they've reached the NCAA playoffs four years in a row and nine of the last 16 seasons; and they've had top-three MIAC finishes 15 consecutive seasons.

The addition of head coach John Tschida and his staff is expected to take the Tommie softball program to even greater heights. In six seasons at St. Mary's, Tschida guided the Cardinals to a 207-45 (.821) record, which ranks him second in NCAA Division III history in career winning percentage. The Cards' 2000 national title was the first NCAA championship by a baseball or softball team in MIAC history.

Senior pitcher Casey Curson and senior outfielder Sarah Grudnowski are All-America candidates. Grudnowski reached base in 22 games of the Toms' 23-game win streak in 2000.

The Toms' challenging schedule includes four opponents who reached the 2000 Division III World Series -- NCAA champion St. Mary's, NCAA runner-up Chapman (Calif.), UW-Eau Claire and Tufts (Mass.).

The Toms are scheduled to begin the 2001 MIAC season at home with a home doubleheader vs. St. Mary's, the 2000 NCAA champion and Tschida's old team.

2000 Links - [Standings](#), [Awards](#), [Results](#), [Final Stats](#), [Players of the Week](#), [Midwest Regional](#), [NCAA Tournament](#), [SMU NCAA Champions](#)

2000 Final Standings

	MIAC	Overall
St. Thomas - #	21-1	35-8
St. Mary's	20-2	39-6
Concordia	14-8	22-19
Gustavus	13-9	18-15

<u>St. Benedict's</u>	13-9	22-16
<u>Carleton</u>	12-10	21-13
<u>Augsburg</u>	11-11	15-23
<u>St. Olaf</u>	8-14	9-29
<u>St. Catherine's</u>	6-15-1	10-22-1
<u>Bethel</u>	6-16	11-28-1
<u>Hamline</u>	6-16	7-23
<u>Macalester</u>	1-20-1	3-33-2

- MIAC Champion and NCAA Automatic bid