

Erica Nord, Concordia

Wolverton, Minn. / Barnesville
Week of: 2011-02-28



Last week the Concordia women's basketball team continued its remarkable late-season surge to capture its second MIAC Playoff championship in school history. The Cobbers' were able to defeat MIAC powers Saint Benedict and St. Thomas behind the great all-around play of senior **Erica Nord** (Wolverton, Minn./Barnesville). The Concordia guard averaged 12 points, 3.0 assists, 2.5 steals and 2.0 rebounds per game while shooting 50 percent from three and 75 percent from the line, and she also was the team's defensive heart and soul in both playoff victories. For her performance, Nord has been named the MIAC Women's Basketball Athlete-of-the-Week.

In Thursday's 78-69 semifinal win over Saint Benedict, Nord had seven points, three assists and a steal while leading the Cobbers' defensive effort that held forced the Blazers into 17 turnovers, and held them to just .423 shooting from the floor and .278 from three. Nord starred in Concordia's 71-61 championship win over regular-season champ St. Thomas with 17 points, four steals, three rebounds and three assists. She was 3-for-7 from behind the 3-point arc and 4-for-4 from the line in the win, and she helped the Cobbers force 15 Tommie turnovers and pressure UST into shooting .361 from the floor and .286 from three. In addition, Nord was named a Third-Team Academic All-American last week for her excellence on the court and in the classroom.

The tournament title helped Concordia improve to 21-6 overall this season and reach its 17th NCAA Tournament overall – its second in the past three years. The Cobbers will open the Division III playoffs against Simpson College Friday with the winner scheduled to take on the UW-Stevens Point/St. Norbert's winner on Saturday.

Sarah Smith, St. Thomas

Fargo, N.D. / Red River
Week of: 2011-02-21



The 2010-11 MIAC women's basketball championship wasn't decided until the final day of the regular season, but it was definitely worth the wait for St. Thomas, which defeated Saint Benedict Saturday to claim the league title and the top seed in the conference playoffs. Tommies' junior **Sarah Smith** (Grand Forks, N.D./Red River) was a big reason UST was able to put the finishing touches on its title, as the forward shot an incredible 89 percent from the floor while averaging 20 points and six rebounds per game last week. For her performance, Smith has been named the MIAC Women's Basketball Athlete-of-the-Week.

Smith more than doubled her season scoring average (8.5 ppg) at a crucial time for the Tommies while shooting 17-for-19 from the floor in two games last week. Smith racked up 22 points, eight rebounds and two steals while making all 10 field goal attempts in a loss 85-71 at Hamline earlier in the week, with the 10-for-10 performance tying a UST record for single-game accuracy. Smith added 18 points (7-for-9 FG) and five boards Saturday as the Tommies clinched the outright title with their 80-47 win over Saint Benedict. St. Thomas improved to 12-1 in games where Smith reaches double figures.

The Tommies finished the regular season with a 19-6 overall record, and an 18-4 mark to win the MIAC title. St. Thomas will enjoy a first-round bye in the MIAC Playoffs, and it will host a semifinal game Thursday at 7:30 p.m. The Tommies, as the top seed, will host the lowest remaining seed following Tuesday's quarterfinal games.

Majra Mucic, Macalester

Zenica, Bosnia / St. Louis Park (Minn.)

Week of: 2011-02-14



Macalester is making a strong push for a spot in the 2011 MIAC Women's Basketball Playoffs, and down the stretch senior **Majra Mucic** (Zenica, Bosnia/St. Louis Park, Minn.) has put the team on her back. The forward racked up huge numbers and a pair of double-doubles last week to lead the Scots to two wins and a .500 record in the MIAC. She averaged 19.5 points, 14.0 rebounds and five steals per game in victories over Saint Benedict and Hamline to put Macalester in the sixth and final MIAC Playoff spot for the time being. For her heroics, Mucic has been named the MIAC Women's Basketball Athlete-of-the-Week for the second time in 2010-11.

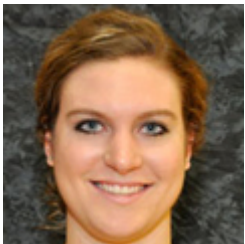
In Wednesday's 72-58 win over Saint Benedict – the Scots' first since 1995 – Mucic scored 17 points and matched a career high with 16 rebounds. She added a 22-point, 12-rebound, six-steal performance Saturday in a 76-70 win over Hamline. The win was especially big for Macalester because they entered the day tied with Hamline in the standings. Mucic recorded her 11th and 12th double-doubles of the season and improved her impressive season statistics. The senior leads the MIAC in rebounding (10.6 rpg), is third in scoring (14.5 ppg), tied for fourth in steals (2.27 spg) and seventh in blocks (1.23 per game).

Mucic and the Scots will enjoy a night off Monday before wrapping up the regular season with two games this week. Wednesday, Macalester travels to Carleton for a 7:30 p.m. tip off in Northfield, Minn., and Saturday it will finish the regular season on the road at another playoff hopeful – Bethel – at 1 p.m. Several scenarios exist that would put Macalester in the playoffs, but if the Scots can control their own destiny. Two wins, and they're in.

Scotti Moats, Bethel

Waconia, Minn. / Waconia

Week of: 2011-02-07



The Bethel women's basketball team had never beaten defending MIAC champ Saint Benedict on its home floor. However, that changed last week when the Royals scored a 52-48 road upset of the Blazers, thanks largely to a brilliant performance by sophomore **Scotti Moats** (Waconia, Minn.). The center averaged 17.0 points and 7.3 rebounds last week to lead Bethel to a perfect 3-0 week, and she capped her week by making the game-winning free throws against Concordia Saturday. For her unforgettable week and clutch performances, Moats has been named the MIAC Women's Basketball Athlete-of-the-Week.

Moats' big week started with a dominant performance in the Royals' historic win at Saint Benedict. She stuffed her stat line with 21 points, seven rebounds, five blocked shots and two assists while shooting 8-for-13 from the floor, 2-for-3 from behind the arc and 3-for-4 from the line. Moats added 13 points, five rebounds and a block while shooting 4-for-6 from the floor and 5-for-5 from the line in a 65-43 win over St. Catherine. In Saturday's 65-63 win over Concordia, Moats had a 17-point, 10-rebound double-double with two blocks and two assists, and she was a

perfect 7-for-7 from the free throw line. Her two biggest free throws came with just three seconds left, and they gave the Royals' the win. This season, Moats is tied for third in the MIAC with 7.9 rebounds per game, her 37 blocks rank fourth in the league, she's tied for sixth in scoring (13.9 ppg) and she's tied for eighth in field goal percentage (.505).

The three wins helped Bethel improve to 11-9 overall and they moved above .500 in the MIAC at 9-8. The Royals currently sit alone in fifth place, and are in line to earn a bid to the MIAC playoffs. This week, Bethel will hit the road for a pair of crucial MIAC contests. It will travel to Hamline Wednesday for a 7:30 p.m. tip off and Saturday it will visit Augsburg with the start time set for 1 p.m.

Mary Wilkowski, Hamline

Savannah, Ga. / St. Andrews

Week of: 2011-01-31



It was quite a week for Hamline senior **Mary Wilkowski** (Savannah, Ga./St. Andrews). The center led her team to two spectacular wins – including an upset over nationally-ranked St. Benedict – and she inched closer to a pair of historic career milestones in the process. Wilkowski averaged 17.5 points and 8.5 rebounds in the Pipers' two victories over the Blazers and St. Catherine and she shot .519 from the floor and .875 from the line last week. As a result, the Hamline star has been named the MIAC Women's Basketball Athlete-of-the-Week for the second time this month.

Wilkowski keyed last week's 77-58 upset of St. Benedict with a 14-point, 12-rebound double-double. She also added three assists, a block and a steal to her stat line, and she was a perfect 6-for-6 from the free throw line to lead Hamline to one of the most stunning wins in the MIAC this season. Saturday she was spectacular again, scoring 21 points with five boards and two assists in the 76-67 win over the Wildcats. This season, Wilkowski leads the MIAC in scoring (20.2 ppg), is second in rebounding (8.3 rpg) and minutes played (36.06 mpg), third in field goal percentage (.550) and 10th in free throw percentage (.784) and blocks (0.94 bpg). She needs just 22 points to join the 1,500-point club, and she'll become Hamline's all-time leading scorer with just 34 more points.

The Pipers' star will have three games on the schedule this week to try to reach her milestones. Monday Hamline hosts' Augsburg at 7:30 p.m. before facing back-to-back road games later in the week. Wednesday the Pipers are at Gustavus at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday they'll tip off at Saint Mary's at 1 p.m. Hamline is currently 7-11 overall and 6-9 in MIAC play.

Molly Mathiowetz, Gustavus

Sleepy Eye, Minn. / Sleepy Eye St. Mary's

Week of: 2011-01-24



It's almost surprising the smoke alarms didn't go off in basketball gyms and arenas around the MIAC last week, because Gustavus senior **Molly Mathiowetz** (Sleepy Eye, Minn./St. Mary's) was absolutely on fire from the field all week. The Gusties' star shot .821 from the floor last week as she led her squad to three critical conference wins, while averaging 17.7 points and 7.0 rebounds per game. The senior is also nearing a major milestone, as she

needs just 63 points to become the 10 th member of Gustavus' 1,000-point club. For her performance, Molly has been named the MIAC Women's Basketball Athlete-of-the-Week.

Mathiowetz made almost everything she shot last week, going 23-for-28 from the floor and 7-for-10 from the line in Gustavus' three conference wins. She had a 22-point, 12-rebound double-double in a 91-70 road win at Augsburg. She added 12 points and six boards as the Gusties took down third place Bethel on the road as well, and she capped her incredible week with 19 points and three rebounds in a 64-49 win at Saint Mary's. Mathiowetz leads the MIAC with a field goal percentage of .586 and she ranks in the top 10 in scoring at 13.2 points per game.

Currently, Gustavus is 9-7 overall and 8-5 in the MIAC and in fourth place in the league standings. Mathiowetz and her teammates have two more tough conference games on the docket this week as they try to keep their four-game winning streak alive. Gustavus hosts St. Olaf Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday it heads north to take on Concordia with tip off set for 1 p.m.

Jess Miller, Saint Mary's

Carver, Minn. / Chaska
Week of: 2011-01-17



Last week was a big week for Saint Mary's senior **Jess Miller** (Carver, Minn./Chaska), and not just because she scored at least 21 points in both of the Cardinals game and helped her team remain above .500 both in the conference and overall. In addition to those feats, Miller also became just the ninth player in Cardinal history to surpass the 1,000-point plateau for her career. Miller scored the 1,000th point of her career in Wednesday's home win over St. Catherine. Her big week received the appropriate punctuation mark Monday when she was named the MIAC Women's Basketball Athlete-of-the-Week for her efforts.

Wednesday certainly was a special night in Winona. Miller's stat line featured 21 points, four rebounds and three assists, and she shot 8-for-15 from the floor in the 76-57 win over the Wildcats that also featured her big milestone. Saturday, she was just as good, scoring 22 points to go along with three rebounds, three assists and a steal while shooting 10-for-17 from the floor in a narrow 57-51 loss at Hamline. This season, Miller is the MIAC's seventh-leading scorer with 14.0 points per game, and she also averages 2.9 rebounds per game with a .447 shooting percentage, 21 assists, five steals and six blocks. The guard has scored at least 20 points in three straight games.

This season, Miller and the Cardinals are 7-5 overall and 5-4 in the MIAC, which has them in a tie for seventh-place after last weekend's action. A tough week for SMU starts Monday with Saint Benedict in town for a 7:30 p.m. tip off. Augsburg also travels to Winona Wednesday for a 7:30 p.m. game, and the Cardinals host Gustavus Saturday at 1 p.m.

Mary Wilkowski, Hamline

Savannah, Ga. / St. Andrews
Week of: 2011-01-10



Hamline University senior **Mary Wilkowski** (Savannah, Ga./St. Andrews) had another standout week to lead the Pipers' women's basketball team to its first two MIAC victories of the 2010-11 season. Wilkowski, who is among the conference leaders in scoring and rebounding, had an even better week than her outstanding season averages with 21.0 points and 9.0 rebounds per game while shooting .553 from the floor to lead Hamline to a 2-1 MIAC mark. For her performance, Wilkowski has been honored as the first MIAC Women's Basketball Athlete-of-the-Week of 2011.

Wilkowski started her huge week with a 22-point, 12-rebound double-double in her team's 83-76 win over Gustavus. She had another huge game with 24 points, 10 rebounds and four steals in a close 62-58 loss to Bethel, and she added 17 points, five rebounds and four steals in a 61-56 win over Macalester. This season, Wilkowski is the MIAC's leading scorer with an average of 20.6 points per game. She's the only player in the conference with more than 200 points (227) to date. Her average of 7.6 rebounds per game ranks fifth in the conference, and her .573 field goal percentage is at least .013 better than anyone else in the league. She also leads the league in minutes played with an average of 36.64 minutes per game.

With the 2-1 week, Hamline improved to 3-8 overall and 2-6 in the conference. The Pipers hope to continue their surge this week with a pair of MIAC home games. St. Olaf comes to St. Paul Wednesday for a 7:30 p.m. tip off, and Hamline will host Saint Mary's Saturday at 1 p.m.

Majra Mucic, Macalester

Zenica, Bosnia / St. Louis Park (Minn.)
Week of: 2010-12-13



The Macalester women's basketball team won two of its three MIAC games last week, thanks largely to the play of senior forward Majra Mucic (Zenica, Bosnia/St. Louis Park, Minn.). Mucic did a little bit of everything to help the Scots, averaging a double-double with 17.0 points and 13.7 rebounds per game and adding 3.7 steals, 3.3 assists and 2.3 blocks per game while also reaching single-game career highs in points and rebounds in the process. For her trio of strong performances, Mucic has been named the MIAC Women's Basketball Athlete-of-the-Week.

To open the week, Mucic poured in a career-high 22 points and added 12 rebounds for a double-double in a 58-51 win over crosstown rival St. Catherine last Monday. She followed that up with a 17-point, 14-rebound performance Wednesday in a loss at Gustavus. Her third double-double of the week featured 12 points and a career-high 15 boards in Saturday's 82-46 win over Augsburg. Mucic added five steals and four assists at Gustavus and five assists and four steals against the Auggies. This season, the senior ranks seventh in the MIAC in scoring (13.4 ppg), second in rebounding (10.9 rpg), tied for sixth in steals (2.0 spg), sixth in blocks (1.5 bpg) and she is just one of two players to average a double-double.

The Scots are off to a 2-6 overall start in 2010-11, but sit just a game below .500 in MIAC play at 2-3. Macalester will take three weeks off for finals and the Holidays, before returning to action on Jan. 3 with a trip to Concordia. The Scots next home game will be Jan. 5 when Saint Benedict travels to St. Paul.

Mackenzie Wolter, St. Olaf

Norwood, Minn. / Central
Week of: 2010-12-06



The St. Olaf women's basketball team pulled off a huge early-season upset last week when it battled back from a 17-point deficit to score a 62-61 road win over 18th-ranked Saint Benedict. Leading the charge was Oles' guard **Mackenzie Wolter** (Norwood, Minn./Central). The sophomore averaged 14 points, 4.5 rebounds, 2.5 assists and two steals per game last week while shooting .674 from the floor and .444 from behind the three-point arc in two MIAC games. For her performance, Wolter has been named the first MIAC Women's Basketball Athlete-of-the-Week for the 2010-11 season.

In the comeback win over the Blazers, Wolter was at her best. She filled her stat line with 19 points, seven rebounds and two steals while shooting 8-for-12 from the floor and 3-for-6 on three-point attempts. Earlier in the week, Wolter scored nine points with four assists, two rebounds and two steals in a 72-63 loss to Concorida. This season, Wolter ranks in the Top 10 in the MIAC in numerous statistical categories. The sophomore guard is first in steals (3.6 per game), fifth in three-pointers (nine), sixth in scoring (14.6 points per game) and field goal percentage (.563), eighth in assists (3.0 per game) and ninth in free throw percentage (.769).

The Oles and their super sophomore face another big week of MIAC games with three conference contests on the schedule. St. Olaf hosts Gustavus Monday, travels to St. Thomas Wednesday and hosts Hamline Saturday. The weeknight games both begin at 7:30 p.m. with Saturday's contest set to tip off at 1 p.m.