

Maggie Weiers, St. Thomas

New Prague, Minn. / New Prague
Week of: 2012-02-27



St. Thomas added the 2012 MIAC Women's Basketball Playoff championship to its regular-season title over the weekend and ran its winning streak to 26-straight games. However, without the outstanding inside play of sophomore **Maggie Weiers** (New Prague, Minn.), UST might not have survived a furious comeback attempt by second-seeded Gustavus in the title game. Weiers averaged 16 points and 13 rebounds per game in the Tommies' two playoff wins last week to help them claim the title and finish a perfect 13-0 at home and 24-0 against MIAC opponents. For her performance, Weiers was named the MIAC Women's Basketball Athlete-of-the-Week.

Weiers got off to a solid start in the conference postseason tournament with a 14-point, seven-rebound showing Thursday in St. Thomas' 58-45 semifinal win over fifth-seeded Saint Mary's. Weiers was even better Saturday against the Gusties with an 18-point, 19-rebound double-double, where she controlled the paint, and helped UST finish on a 10-1 run after Gustavus cut a 20-point lead to just three points late in the game. The 19 rebounds were the most by a conference player in a single game in the last four seasons, and for the week Weiers shot 63 percent (14-of-22) from the floor for the 26-1 Tommies.

St. Thomas received the right to host the first two rounds of the Division III Tournament thanks to its remarkable regular season and MIAC Playoff run. UST will open postseason play against Martin Luther Friday at 8 p.m., while Coe and UW-River Falls will meet in the other first-round game in St. Paul Friday at 5:30 p.m. The two winners will advance to Saturday's second-round game, which is set to tip off at 7 p.m.

Tricia Sorensen, Concordia

Bismarck, N.D. / Century
Week of: 2012-02-20



Concordia will enter this week's 2012 MIAC Women's Basketball Playoffs riding a wave of momentum after winning six of its last seven games and two in a row over final week of the regular season. Cobber forward **Tricia Sorensen** (Bismarck, N.D./Century) has been instrumental in the team's success, especially over past week as junior averaged 18.5 points and 7.0 rebounds per game while shooting .555 from the floor and .857 from the free throw line in the two wins. For her performance, Sorensen has been named the MIAC Women's Basketball Athlete-of-the-Week.

Sorensen had a huge game with 22 points, six rebounds and three steals Wednesday in a 64-56 win over second-place Gustavus to help boost the Cobbers' confidence heading into the MIAC Playoffs. She followed that up with a near double-double in the regular-season finale with 15 points and eight boards in a 63-57 win over Saint Benedict. This season, Sorensen ranks in the top seven in MIAC in three major statistical categories. The Concordia junior is seventh in scoring (13.8 points per game) and field goal percentage (.466) and sixth in rebounding (7.1 per game).

Thanks to their season-ending hot streak, the Cobbers scored the No. 3 seed in the conference's postseason tournament and the right to host a quarterfinal game Tuesday. Concordia will face No. 6 Bethel in Moorhead at 7:30 p.m. The two wins last week helped the Cobbers finish the regular season with a 17-8 overall record and a 15-7 conference mark with sole possession of third place. Concordia is the defending MIAC Women's Basketball Playoff champion.

Holly Schiedermayer, Macalester

Waupaca, Wis. / Waupaca
Week of: 2012-02-13



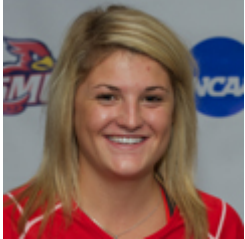
Senior **Holly Schiedermayer** (Waupaca, Wis.) shot the lights out last week while leading the Macalester women's basketball team to pair of MIAC wins. The Scots' center only missed one field goal attempt (13-for-14) while averaging a double-double with 18.5 points and 10.0 rebounds per game in victories against Augsburg and Gustavus. For her hot shooting and all-around production, Schiedermayer has been named the MIAC Women's Basketball Athlete-of-the-Week for the second time this season.

Schiedermayer opened the week with a perfect performance - 9-for-9 shooting - en route to 21 points and nine rebounds in a 56-49 win over Augsburg last Wednesday night. Saturday, she put up a double-double and only missed one field goal attempt (4-for-5) to help the Scots take down the second-place Gusties, 65-56. Schiedermayer finished with 16 points and 11 rebounds in the big win. This season, Schiedermayer has been among the best in the conference, ranking in the top four in four major statistical categories. She is third in scoring (14.9 points per game) and field goal percentage (.500) and fourth in rebounding (7.5 per game) and blocked shots (1.0 per game).

The two victories helped the Scots move closer to the .500 mark at 11-12 overall and 9-11 in conference play. They currently sit in a tie for seventh place in the MIAC standings. Schiedermayer will wrap up her career as Macalester finishes the regular season with a pair of games this week. Wednesday the Scots travel to Saint Benedict for a 7:30 p.m. tip off, and Saturday they close the season with a 1 p.m. home game against Hamline.

Jessica Thone, Saint Mary's

Woodbury, Minn. / Woodbury
Week of: 2012-02-06



The Saint Mary's women's basketball team went 2-1 in MIAC play last week to improve its chances for a postseason bid, thanks largely to the play of **Jessica Thone** (Woodbury, Minn.). The junior guard topped the 20-point plateau in two of the Cardinals' three games, and averaged 17.7 points, 4.3 assists and 4.0 rebounds per game for the week. For her contributions and all-around performance, Thone has been named the MIAC Women's Basketball Athlete-of-the-Week.

Thone started the week with 20 points, five rebounds, three steals and two assists in a 60-59 overtime loss to Concordia. Despite the narrow loss, Thone was huge down the stretch, scoring the Cardinals' final 11 points, including all nine in overtime. She led SMU to a decisive 67-44 win over St. Catherine with 13 points, five assists and three rebounds. Thone was brilliant again Saturday with a stat line of 20 points, six assists, four rebounds, two blocked shots and a steal to lead the Cardinals to a 57-52 win over Macalester. Thone currently leads the MIAC in assists with an average of 4.86 per game, and she ranks eighth in scoring (13.4 points per game) and 10th in steals (2.05 per game).

The two wins helped Saint Mary's improve to 11-10 overall and 11-7 in MIAC play. The Cardinals currently sit in fifth place in the league standings, which would earn them a berth in the six-team MIAC Playoffs. Thone and her teammates will try to continue their two-game winning streak with a pair of tough conference games. Wednesday they travel to St. Peter to face second-place Gustavus at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday they'll host Augsburg at 3 p.m. in Winona.

Taylor Young, St. Thomas

Edina, Minn. / Edina
Week of: 2012-01-30



The St. Thomas women's basketball team is riding an incredible hot streak, and the Tommies didn't show any signs of slowing down last week. Led by sophomore **Taylor Young** (Edina, Minn.), UST ran away with a pair of 20-point wins in MIAC play to run its winning streak to 17 in a row. In the two victories, the Tommies' star guard showed off her great all-around game, averaging 14.5 points, 8.5 rebounds, 2.0 assists, 1.5 steals and 1.0 blocks while shooting 54 percent from the floor and playing great defense. For her performance, Young has been named the MIAC Women's Basketball Athlete-of-the-Week.

Young and St. Thomas stayed hot with a 79-56 win at Hamline Wednesday, which included 12 points, eight rebounds, three assists, two steals and a blocked shot from Young. She was even better in Saturday's showdown of the MIAC's top two teams as the Tommies handed second-place Gustavus a 72-52 loss, thanks to a 21-5 run to close the game. Young just missed a double-double with 17 points, nine rebounds, one assist, one block and one steal, and she also helped limit Gustavus star Molly Geske to just 1-of-13 shooting from the floor. Young ranks ninth in the MIAC in scoring (13.2 points per game) and leads the league in free throw percentage (.829) to go along with 4.3 rebounds per game, 39 assists, 29 steals and a .421 field goal percentage.

The two wins have the Tommies, who haven't lost since their first contest of the season, at 17-1 overall and a perfect 15-0 in MIAC play. The win over the Gusties gave UST a two-game lead over its top competitor. UST will have a chance to run its streak to 20 in a row this week with three conference games on the docket. Monday the Tommies host Macalester at 7:30 p.m. before hitting the road for games at Saint Benedict Wednesday (7:30 p.m.) and at Augsburg Saturday (1 p.m.).

Holly Schiedermayer, Macalester

Waupaca, Wis. / Waupaca
Week of: 2012-01-23



The Macalester women's basketball team had a successful week in MIAC play behind a trio of big performances from senior **Holly Schiedermayer** (Waupaca, Wis.). The center led the Scots to wins over Saint Benedict and Hamline by averaging a double-double over Macalester's three games. She averaged 21 points, 11.3 rebounds and 3.3 assists and was just one rebound shy of posting a double-double in all three contests last week. For her big performance, Schiedermayer was named the MIAC Women's Basketball Athlete-of-the-Week.

Schiedermayer's big week started with her best career performance in one of Macalester's biggest wins of the season. The Scots knocked off the Blazers, 71-56, behind career highs of 26 points and 13 rebounds from its senior center. Wednesday, she had an extremely full stat line of 14 points, nine rebounds and six assists in a 64-52 loss at Concordia. Both Macalester and Schiedermayer bounced back Saturday, beating Hamline by a point, 61-60. Not only did Schiedermayer rack up a 23-point, 12-rebound double-double, but her free throw with 20 seconds remaining won the game for the Scots. This season, Schiedermayer ranks fourth in the MIAC in scoring (15.0 points per game), third in rebounding (8.0 per game), fifth in field goal percentage (.490) and tied for eighth in blocked shots (0.88 per game).

The 2-1 record last week helped the Scots move closer to .500 both overall and in conference play. Macalester is now 7-9 overall and 5-8 in the MIAC this season and is currently in eighth place, two spots out of the final Playoff spot as of now. Wednesday, the Scots host St. Olaf at 5:30 p.m. and Saturday they'll hit the road for a 1 p.m. start in Arden Hills at Bethel.

Taylor Sheley, Bethel

Backus, Minn. / Pine River-Backus

Week of: 2012-01-16



The play of guard **Taylor Sheley** (Backus, Minn./Pine River-Backus) has been crucial to Bethel's success on the basketball court all season, but last week she came up with a clutch performance when her team needed it the most to halt a three-game losing streak and keep the Royals in the hunt for the conference title and a prime playoff position. The senior averaged 17.0 points, 8.0 rebounds, 2.0 steals and 1.5 blocked shots per game last week while leading Bethel to a 1-1 record and an improbable comeback victory. For her big numbers and clutch play, Sheley has been named the MIAC Women's Basketball Co-Athlete-of-the-Week along with Augsburg's Serenae Levine. This is the second honor this season for both players.

The week started off fairly average for Sheley and the Royals as she put up 10 points, three rebounds, three blocks and two steals in a four-point loss to Saint Mary's. However, both Sheley and her team responded with a remarkable 60-58 win over Hamline Saturday. Down 50-40 with four minutes remaining, Sheley scored 10 points and sparked a 20-5 Bethel run to bring her team back for the two-point win. Sheley's big game included 24 points, 13 rebounds, two assists and two steals, and got the Royals back to their winning ways. This season, Sheley ranks second in the MIAC in scoring (18.8 points per game), first in steals (3.08 per game), second in three-pointers per game (2.54) and tied for eighth in blocked shots (0.92 per game) to go along with 5.5 rebounds and 2.23 assists per game.

The win over Hamline helped Bethel improve to 9-4 overall and 7-3 in conference play, where the Royals are currently tied for third in the league standings. Bethel hopes its big comeback will propel it into a big week, as three home MIAC games loom on the schedule over the next six days. Monday, the Royals host first-place St. Thomas and Wednesday St. Catherine comes to Arden Hills - both for 7:30 p.m. starts. Saturday, they'll host Gustavus with tip off set for 1 p.m.

Serenae Levine, Augsburg

Eden Prairie, Minn. / Eden Prairie

Week of: 2012-01-16



Augsburg guard **Serenae Levine** (Eden Prairie, Minn.) continued her remarkable all-around play last week as the Auggies split a pair of tough MIAC games to remain in the hunt for a spot in the conference playoffs and remain above .500 overall. For the week, Levine averaged 15.5 points, 5.5 assists, 5.0 rebounds and 2.5 steals per game while shooting .476 per game and .571 from three-point range. For her great all-around play, Levine has been named the MIAC Women's Basketball Co-Athlete-of-the-Week along with Bethel's Taylor Sheley. This is the second honor this season for both players.

Levine's big week started with one of her best performances of the season in perhaps the Auggies' biggest win. Augsburg handed St. Olaf a 61-51 loss behind 21 points, eight rebounds, three assists, two steals and a block from Levine, who shot 7-for-9 from the floor and a perfect 3-for-3 from behind the arc. She followed that up with a 10-point, eight-assist, three-steal performance in a narrow loss to Saint Mary's. This season, Levine ranks among the league leaders in almost every major category. She's seventh in scoring (13.1 points per game), 11th in rebounding (5.7 per game), fourth in assists (3.7 per game) and sixth in steals (2.4 per game).

Levine's standout play has helped the Auggies to a 7-6 record in overall games thus far, and their 4-6 record in conference play has them tied for seventh place in the MIAC standings, just one spot out of the playoffs at this point. The team's seven wins are already more than last year's overall total (five) and its four conference wins equals last year's total. Augsburg has a chance for a few more important wins this week as it travels to Carleton Monday (7:30 p.m.), hosts Saint Benedict Wednesday (7:30 p.m.) and travels to St. Catherine Saturday (3 p.m.) for a trio of MIAC games.

Akemi Arzouman, Carleton



It's the time of year when New Year's Resolutions make their annual appearance. Apparently, Carleton junior **Akemi Arzouman** (Irvine, Calif./University) made a resolution to start dominating for the Knights, as she burst into 2012 with an incredible statistical week. Carleton lost three close games to tough MIAC competition last week, but Arzouman was phenomenal in defeat, averaging 24.0 points and 6.7 rebounds per game while shooting 59.2 percent from the floor while twice setting a new career high for points in a game. For her incredible individual effort, Arzouman has been named the first MIAC Women's Basketball Athlete-of-the-Week of the 2012 calendar year.

Arzouman's big week began last Monday when she matched her career high with 25 points while shooting 11-for-16 from the floor and grabbing seven rebounds in a 67-73 loss to Macalester. She followed that up with a new career high of 28 points in an 82-73 road loss at Hamline Wednesday. Arzouman shot 11-for-22 against the Pipers, and just missed a double-double with nine rebounds. She capped her big week with a 19-point, four-rebound performance in a 56-47 loss at Concordia Saturday while shooting 63.6 percent (7-for-11) from the floor. Entering last week, Arzouman was averaging 11.1 points and 4.3 rebounds per game, but now after her scoring binge, she ranks fourth in the MIAC with 14.6 points per game overall and 14.9 points per game in conference play.

Despite Arzouman's individual brilliance of late, the Knights are just 1-10 overall this season and one of two 0-8 teams in the MIAC. Carleton will look to right the ship with a pair of very different conference home games on the schedule this week. Wednesday it will host first-place, 8-0 St. Thomas for a 5:45 p.m. tip off, and Saturday 0-8 St. Catherine comes to Northfield for a 3 p.m. start.

Taylor Sheley, Bethel



The Bethel women's basketball team continued its blazing start to the season with three conference wins last week, giving the Royals a seven-game winning streak and their first 5-0 MIAC start in team history. Leading the charge was senior **Taylor Sheley** (Backus, Minn./Pine River-Backus), who's all-around play has been crucial to Bethel's 7-1 start. The guard averaged 21.3 points and 6.0 rebounds per game last week in the three wins, including a stellar second-half performance against Augsburg. For her performances, Sheley has been named the MIAC Women's Basketball Athlete-of-the-Week.

Sheley's big week began with a clutch performance in a 66-57 home win over the previously unbeaten Auggies. She poured in 19 second-half points en route to 26 points in the win. She led the Royals to another close win over Carleton, 52-51, just two days later with a full stat line of 19 points, five rebounds and two steals, and she capped her brilliant week with a double-double. Sheley had 19 points and 11 rebounds in a 68-60 road win at Saint Mary's Saturday to give Bethel plenty of momentum heading into its Holiday break. This season, Sheley has been one of the MIAC's top all-around players. In overall games, she leads the league in scoring (19.4 points per game), steals (3.13 per game) and three-pointers (2.5 per game) and she's eighth in assists (2.63 per game). She's been just as good in conference play, leading the MIAC in scoring (19.4 ppg) and threes (2.6 per game) and she's tied for seventh in steals (2.2 per game) and assists (2.6 per game).

The three wins last week moved Bethel to its aforementioned 7-1 overall record and 5-0 start in MIAC play, with a season-opening loss to Wisconsin Lutheran serving as the only blemish on its record. The Royals and their star player will not get some well-deserved time off with finals and the Holidays looming. Bethel will return to action on Jan. 2 when it hosts Concordia at 5:45 p.m.

Serenae Levine, Augsburg



The Augsburg women's basketball team is one of the biggest surprises of the early season after winning its first three games, including a pair of wins over a pair of 2011 MIAC Playoff semifinalists. Leading the charge was senior **Serenae Levine** (Eden Prairie, Minn.), who put up averages of 14.5 points, 8.5 rebounds, 5.0 assists and 5.5 steals per game in the Auggies' victories over Saint Benedict and Concordia. For her incredible all-around performances, Levine has been named the inaugural winner of the MIAC Women's Basketball Athlete-of-the-Week award for the 2011-12 season.

Levine's big week started with 17 points, four rebounds, one assist and six steals in Wednesday's win 61-50 win over Saint Benedict. She followed that up by flirting with a triple-double in Saturday's 62-41 win over Concordia. Levine racked up 12 points, 13 rebounds, nine assists and five steals to lead Augsburg to its impressive win over the Cobbers, who are the defending MIAC Playoff champions. This season, Levine ranks first in the MIAC in overall games in steals (4.67 per game), second in assists (5.0 per game), third in rebounds (9.0 per game) and 11th in scoring (13.0 points per game). She is one of just two players to rank in the top 15 in the MIAC in those four major statistical categories.

The Auggies surprising start has led to a 3-0 overall record and a 2-0 conference mark, as Augsburg is just one of two MIAC teams without an overall loss, and one of four without a MIAC loss on its record. In addition to their two conference wins, The Auggies also have a nonconference victory over North Central. Levine and her teammates will face tough tests this week with three MIAC games in six days. Augsburg will be on the road Monday at Bethel and Saturday at St. Olaf, with a Wednesday home game against Gustavus wedged in the middle.