

Concordia's Thesing headlines 2012-2013 Women's Basketball Awards

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ST. PAUL, Minn. -- The 2012-13 Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference women's basketball regular season featured an entertaining four-team battle for the title and even more teams vying for the six Playoff spots in addition to countless great games and individual performances. Wednesday, the top performers from a tremendous season of MIAC basketball were honored with the announcement of the 2012-13 MIAC Women's Basketball Awards.

Concordia senior guard Emily Thesing headlined the awards as the MIAC Women's Basketball Player-of-the-Year. St. Olaf first-year guard Kim Cerjan was voted the Sixth Player-of-the-Year and Saint Mary's Head Coach Mandy Pearson was honored by her peers as the league's Coach-of-the-Year. In addition the MIAC announced the All-Conference team, All-Defensive and All-First-Year teams, All-Conference Honorable Mention selections and the All-MIAC Sportsmanship Team.

Thesing received the conference's top honor following an outstanding senior season in which she led the Cobbers to the MIAC's regular-season championship, a runner-up finish in the MIAC Playoffs, and an at-large bid to the 2012-13 NCAA Division III Women's Basketball Tournament. Thesing headlined the 15-member All-Conference team - her second-straight selection - for leading Concordia to a 21-6 overall record and a 19-3 MIAC championship campaign. Thesing was twice named MIAC Women's Basketball Athlete-of-the-Week during the season.

This season, Thesing put up great numbers, ranking eighth in the MIAC in scoring (13.0 points per game) and sixth in assists (3.2 per game), to go along with 4.9 rebounds and 2.0 steals per game. She had nearly identical stats in conference play, with 13.2 points, 4.8 rebounds, 3.0 assists and 2.0 steals per game. Thesing scored in double figures 19 times, topping the 20-point mark six times, including a season-high 23 points in a win at Bethel. Though Thesing's numbers were great, they don't tell the whole story. All season long she was the heart and soul of the Cobbers' title team, running the offense and showing a flair for the dramatic with countless big shots in important moments.

Cerjan emerged as a valuable player off the Ole bench in her freshman campaign, as she averaged 11.4 points and 4.4 rebounds per game to earn Sixth Player-of-the-Year honors. In addition, Cerjan averaged 1.5 steals and 1.1 assists per game while shooting a terrific 92.0 percent from the free throw line. The St. Olaf rookie scored 21 points in her collegiate debut, and reached double figures in 14 of 25 games. She topped 20 points four times, including a season-high 28 points in a 67-64 win at Augsburg on Feb. 9. Cerjan was also honored with a spot on the MIAC All-First-Year Team.

Saint Mary's Pearson received her third MIAC individual honor - but first of the coaching variety - for leading the Cardinals to a tie for second place in the conference standings. Pearson's first MIAC Coach-of-the-Year honor comes after winning MIAC Player-of-the-Year accolades twice (2003-04 and 2004-05) during her playing days for Concordia. This season, Pearson's sixth as SMU's head coach, she led her team to the MIAC Playoff semifinals for the second-straight season during a tremendous 22-5 overall and 18-4 MIAC campaign.

Pearson's team led the MIAC in free throw percentage (75.6) and opponent three-point percentage (28.4), was second in points allowed (54.7 per game), third in rebounding (37.8 per game) and also ranked in the top six in the league in scoring (61.5 points per game), steals (10.2 per game), field goal percentage (38.9) and assists (13.7 per game). This season, Pearson coached two All-Conference selections, one All-Defensive Team pick, an All-First-Year Team selection and one Honorable Mention honoree.

MIAC Playoff champion St. Thomas led the way with three All-Conference selections. Regular-season champ Concordia had two players honored, as did fellow MIAC Playoff participants Saint Mary's, Saint Benedict and Hamline. Gustavus, Bethel, St. Olaf and Carleton all had one player honored apiece. Nine seniors were selected to the All-Conference team, joined by two juniors, three sophomores and one first-year player.

St. Olaf guard Mackenzie Wolter closed her phenomenal career with her third-straight MIAC All-Conference selection. St. Thomas junior forward also earned her third-straight All-MIAC honor, and will have a chance to become a rare four-time selection next season. Thesing headlined a group of five players who were being honored for the second year in a row. Cobber teammate Tricia Sorensen, Saint Mary's Jessica Thone and Jamie Stefely and Saint Benedict's Whitney Canton all received their second-straight All-MIAC honor. Thone adds her two All-Conference selections to All-First-Year team honors in 2009-10. Bethel first-year Rachel Parupsky pulled off a rare awards three-peat, earning All-Conference, All-Defensive and All-First-Year Team honors in her rookie season.

The full list of honorees, including all 15 All-Conference picks, the six-player All-Defensive Team, the five-player All-First-Year Team and the 10 Honorable Mention selections are listed below.

As part of a conference-wide sportsmanship initiative, the MIAC also announced the seventh annual All-MIAC Sportsmanship team for women's basketball. Members of the All-MIAC Sportsmanship team are selected by their coaches and teammates as individuals who demonstrate ideals of positive sportsmanship both on and off the field of competition.

2012-13 MIAC Women's Basketball Awards

Player-of-the-Year - Emily Thesing, Concordia (Sr., Guard, Brainerd, Minn.)

Sixth Player-of-the-Year - Kim Cerjan, St. Olaf (Fy., Guard, Colorado Springs, Colo./Doherty)

Coach-of-the-Year - Mandy Pearson, Saint Mary's (Sixth season)

2012-13 MIAC Women's Basketball All-Conference Team

Name	Team	Year	Position	Hometown/Previous School
Brianna Barrett	Saint Benedict	Jr.	Wing	Annandale, Minn.
Whitney Canton	Saint Benedict	Sr.	Wing	Pine Island, Minn.
Jenna Dockter	St. Thomas	So.	Guard	Rosemount, Minn./Eastview
Rachel Parupsky	Bethel	Fy.	Center	Arden Hills, Minn./Mounds View
Steph Pilgrim	Hamline	Sr.	Guard	Maple Grove, Minn.
Kellie Ring	St. Thomas	Sr.	Guard	Somerset, Wis.
Abby Rothenbuehler	Gustavus	Sr.	Forward	North Mankato, Minn./Mankato West
Jordan Sammons	Hamline	So.	Guard	Burnsville, Minn./Apple Valley
Tricia Sorensen	Concordia	Sr.	Forward	Bismarck, N.D./Century
Jamie Stefely	Saint Mary's	Sr.	Forward/Post	Lisle, Ill./Saint Francis
Emily Thesing	Concordia	Sr.	Guard	Brainerd, Minn.
Jessica Thone	Saint Mary's	Sr.	Guard	Woodbury, Minn.
Skylar Tsutsui	Carleton	So.	Guard	Northridge, Calif./Harvard Westlake
Mackenzie Wolter	St. Olaf	Sr.	Guard	Norwood, Minn./Central
Taylor Young	St. Thomas	Jr.	Forward	Edina, Minn.

2012-13 MIAC Women's Basketball All-Defensive Team

Name	Team	Year	Position	Hometown/Previous School
Kelly Brandenburg	St. Thomas	Jr.	Guard	Brookfield, Wis./Divine Savior
Kellie Ring	St. Thomas	Sr.	Guard	Somerset, Wis.
Rachel Parupsky	Bethel	Fy.	Center	Arden Hills, Minn./Mounds View
Courtney Euerle	Saint Mary's	Jr.	Post	Litchfield, Minn.
Jordan Sammons	Hamline	So.	Guard	Burnsville, Minn./Apple Valley
Erika Jossart	Concordia	Jr.	Guard	Bismarck, N.D./Century

2012-13 MIAC Women's Basketball All-First-Year Team

Name	Team	Year	Position	Hometown/Previous School
Rachel Parupsky	Bethel	Fy.	Center	Arden Hills, Minn./Mounds View
Kim Cerjan	St. Olaf	Fy.	Guard	Colorado Springs, Colo./Doherty
Karina Schroeder	Gustavus	Fy.	Post	Lake Crystal, Minn./Wellcome Memorial
Bridget Pethke	Saint Mary's	Fy.	Guard	Larsen, Wis./New London
Mattie Lueck	Saint Benedict	Fy.	Forward	Pequot Lakes, Minn.

2012-13 Honorable Mention All-Conference

Name	Team	Year	Position	Hometown/Previous School
Je'Naya Brown	Hamline	Jr.	Guard	Lewisville, Texas
Morgan Dale	Saint Benedict	Sr.	Forward	Jamestown, N.D.
Julia Dysthe	Gustavus	Jr.	Guard	White Bear Lake, Minn.
Courtney Euerle	Saint Mary's	Jr.	Post	Litchfield, Minn.
Alley Fisher	Concordia	So.	Guard	Fargo, N.D./South
Kelsey Florian	Gustavus	Sr.	Forward	Roseville, Minn.
Kyanna Jones	Macalester	Sr.	Guard	Brooklyn Park, Minn./Osseo
Alexandra Lippert	Concordia	Jr.	Center	Willmar, Minn.
Kara Poirier	Hamline	Sr.	Guard	Eau Claire, Wis./Regis
Anne Skirba	Augsburg	Sr.	Guard	La Crosse, Wis./Fon Du Lac

2012-13 All-MIAC Sportsmanship Team

Augsburg - Anne Skriba (Sr., La Crosse, Wis./Fon Du Lac)
Bethel - Alicia Montbriand (Sr., Alexandria, Minn./Jefferson)
Carleton - Jessica Huang (Jr., Millbrae, Calif./Taipei American)
Concordia - Tricia Sorensen (Sr., Bismarck, N.D./Century)
Gustavus - Kelsey Florian (Sr., Roseville, Minn.)
Hamline - Kara Poirier (Sr., Eau Claire, Wis./Regis)
Macalester - Kyanna Jones (Sr., Brooklyn Park, Minn./Osseo)
Saint Benedict - Morgan Dale (Sr., Jamestown, N.D.)
St. Catherine - Sarah Mong (So., Page, Ariz.)
Saint Mary's - Courtney Athnos (Sr., La Crosse, Wis./Central)
St. Olaf - Erin Haglund (Sr., Hastings, Minn.)
St. Thomas - Kellie Ring (Sr., Somerset, Wis.)
