

# UST's Spaulding headlines MIAC Women's Basketball Awards

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**BLOOMINGTON, Minn.** – The Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (MIAC) closed the book on its 2017-18 women's basketball season on Wednesday with the announcement of the annual Conference awards.

St. Thomas junior center **Hannah Spaulding** was voted the Conference Player of the Year by MIAC coaches, while Saint Benedict head coach **Mike Durbin** was honored by his peers with Coach of the Year recognition for the sixth time in his illustrious 33-year career at CSB. Bethel senior guard **Jasmin Bretoi** received Sixth Player of the Year accolades for her contributions to the Royals' success and first-year Gustavus guard **Ava Gonsorowski** became the inaugural recipient of the MIAC Women's Basketball Rookie of the Year award.

Spaulding (Jr. | Annandale, Minn.) led all of NCAA Division III with a field goal percentage of 71.4 during the 2017-18 season. The 2017 MIAC Sixth Player of the Year, Spaulding moved into the starting lineup in November with the unenviable task of replacing two-time MIAC Player of the Year and 2017 National Player of the Year, Kaitlin Langer. Spaulding made the most of the opportunity, averaging 19.6 points, 8.0 rebounds and 2.9 blocks per Conference contest, while winning a pair of MIAC Athlete of the Week awards in her first full season as a starter.

Bretoi (Sr. | Lino Lakes, Minn. | Centennial) started the first six games of the season before transitioning to become Bethel's top reserve. The senior guard provided key production off the bench for the Royals this season, particularly down the stretch when she averaged 10 points per game in the month of January. Bretoi's signature performance came against St. Catherine on January 6, when she scored a game-high 27 points while shooting 7-for-11 from behind the arc.

Gonsorowski (Fy. | Esko, Minn.) earned the unique distinction of becoming the first women's basketball player in Conference history to receive Rookie of the Year honors. A floor general on offense and full-court pest on defense, Gonsorowski moved into the starting lineup in mid-December and made an immediate impact, scoring 10 points in her first career start at point guard against Coe College on December 22.

Durbin received MIAC Coach of the Year honors after leading Saint Ben's to its best regular season record in nearly a decade. CSB jumped out to a 15-1 start to the season and returned to the national polls for the first time in seven years en route to a 22-win season and a berth in the NCAA Division III Women's Basketball Tournament. The 2017-18 campaign was Durbin's 25th season with 20-plus victories, a feat only five DIII coaches can lay claim to. This is Durbin's sixth MIAC Coach of the Year award in his 33 seasons at the helm in St. Joseph.

In addition to individual awards, MIAC coaches also voted on and selected All-Conference, All-Defense and All-First-Year Teams. Gustavus senior guard **Mikayla Miller** joined elite company after being selected to her fourth All-Conference Team. Saint Mary's junior forward **Brandi Blattner** will have an opportunity to join that group next season, as the two-sport star earned her third All-Conference honor in as many seasons. Saint Benedict senior post **Niki Fokken** also received All-Conference honors for the third straight season. Seven players garnered All-Conference accolades for the second year in a row, including Augsburg's **Tamira McLemore**, Bethel's **Taite Anderson** and **Hannah Johnson**, Gustavus' **Miranda Rice**, Macalester's **Regan Fruh**, Saint Benedict's **Chelsey Guetter** and St. Thomas' **Lauren Fischer**. Johnson landed on the All-Defensive Team for the second consecutive season as well.

As part of a conference-wide sportsmanship initiative, the MIAC also announced the 12th 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.



*Spaulding led the nation in field goal percentage with a mark of 71.4 this season. (Photo: Haley Staffon)*

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## 2018 MIAC Women's Basketball Awards

**Player of the Year** – Hannah Spaulding | C | St. Thomas (Jr. | Annandale, Minn.)

**Sixth Player of the Year** – Jasmin Bretoi | G | Bethel (Sr. | Lino Lakes, Minn. | Centennial)

**Rookie of the Year** – Ava Gonsorowski | G | Gustavus (Fy. | Esko, Minn.)

**Coach of the Year** – Mike Durbin | Saint Benedict (33rd season)

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**2018 MIAC Women's Basketball All-Conference Team**

Position	Name	Institution	Class	Hometown   High School
G	Tamira McLemore	Augsburg	So.	Eagan, Minn.
G	Abby Miller	Bethel	Sr.	Howard Lake, Minn.   Howard Lake Waverly Winsted
G	Katie Chavez	Carleton	So.	Westminster, Colo.   Holy Family
G	Grace Wolhowe	Concordia	Jr.	Staples, Minn.   Staples-Motley
G	Mikayla Miller	Gustavus	Sr.	Goodhue, Minn.
G	Danica Cambrice	St. Catherine	So.	Minneapolis, Minn.   St. Croix Lutheran
G	Alexa Huisman	Saint Mary's	Sr.	Adrian, Minn.   Ellsworth
G	Lucia Renikoff	St. Thomas	Jr.	Minneapolis, Minn.   Washburn
F	Camryn Speese	Augsburg	So.	Bloomington, Minn.   De La Salle
F	Taite Anderson	Bethel	So.	White Bear Lake, Minn.
F	Miranda Rice	Gustavus	Sr.	Forest Lake, Minn.
F	Niki Fokken	Saint Benedict	Sr.	Oronoco, Minn.   Pine Island
F	Chelsey Guetter	Saint Benedict	Sr.	Wabasso, Minn.
F	Brandi Blattner	Saint Mary's	Jr.	Eyota, Minn.   Dover-Eyota
F	Lauren Fischer	St. Thomas	Sr.	Oshkosh, Wis.   Lourdes Academy
C	Hannah Johnson	Bethel	Jr.	Duluth, Minn.   Duluth East
C	Regan Fruh	Macalester	Sr.	Helena, Mont.
C	Hannah Spaulding	St. Thomas	Jr.	Annandale, Minn.

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**2018 MIAC Women's Basketball Honorable Mention Team**

Position	Name	Institution	Class	Hometown   High School
G	Alaina Quaranta	Hamline	Jr.	Eau Claire, Wis.   North
G	Sidney Schiffler	Saint Benedict	So.	Albany, Minn.
G	Megan Thompson	Saint Benedict	Fy.	Inver Grove Heights, Minn.   Academy of Holy Angels
G	Jackie Radford	St. Catherine	So.	St. Paul, Minn.   Cretin-Derham Hall
G	Meg Clark	St. Catherine	Sr.	Kenyon, Minn.   Kenyon-Wanamingo
G	Maddie Wolkow	St. Thomas	Sr.	Lakeville, Minn.   Lakeville South
G	Kaylie Brazil	St. Thomas	Jr.	Norwood Young America, Minn.
F	Anne Hamilton	Carleton	Sr.	Chanhassen, Minn.   Minnetonka
F	Kendall Thompson	Gustavus	Jr.	Eden Prairie, Minn.   Holy Family Catholic
F	Alexis Garcia	St. Catherine	Sr.	Minnetonka, Minn.   Hopkins

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**2018 MIAC Women's Basketball All-Defensive Team**

Position	Name	Institution	Class	Hometown   High School
G	Mikayla Miller	Gustavus	Sr.	Goodhue, Minn.
F	Niki Fokken	Saint Benedict	Sr.	Oronoco, Minn.   Pine Island
F	Brandi Blattner	Saint Mary's	Jr.	Eyota, Minn.   Dover-Eyota
C	Hannah Johnson	Bethel	Jr.	Duluth, Minn.   Duluth East

2018 MIAC Women's Basketball All-First-Year Team

Position	Name	Institution	Class	Hometown   High School
G	Nia Harris	Carleton	Fy.	Burnsville, Minn.   The Blake School
G	Ava Gonsorowski	Gustavus	Fy.	Esko, Minn.
G	Megan Thompson	Saint Benedict	Fy.	Inver Grove Heights, Minn.   Academy of Holy Angels
F	Kaia Porter	St. Thomas	Fy.	Roseville, Minn.
P	Abby Winter	Saint Mary's	Fy.	Winona, Minn.

2018 MIAC Women's Basketball All-Sportsmanship Team

Position	Name	Institution	Class	Hometown   High School
F	Bridget Bednar	Augsburg	Sr.	Pierz, Minn.
G	Angie Kirchoff	Bethel	Sr.	Barrington, Ill.
G	Sarah Paller	Carleton	Sr.	Brooklyn, N.Y.   Berkeley Carrol School
G	Cassidy Rahman	Concordia	Sr.	Moorhead, Minn.
F	Emee Udo	Gustavus	Sr.	Apple Valley, Minn.   Eastview
G	Morgen Coleman	Hamline	So.	North Branch, Minn.
G	Vivi Gregorich	Macalester	Sr.	Boulder, Colo.
P	Kate Banovetz	Saint Benedict	Sr.	Minneapolis, Minn.   Academy of Holy Angels
G	Ashley Fosness	St. Catherine	Fy.	Britton, S.D.   Britton-Hecla
G	Isabel Bettag	Saint Mary's	Fy.	Maple Park, Ill.   St. Francis College Prep
F	Samantha Tisa	St. Olaf	So.	Lake Geneva, Wis.   Badger
G	Maddie Wolkow	St. Thomas	Sr.	Lakeville, Minn.   Lakeville South