

2012-13 MIAC Women's Basketball Preview and Preseason Coaches' Poll

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ST. PAUL, Minn. -- The Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (MIAC) is a particularly strong women's basketball league, but the it was exceptionally competitive - even by its own lofty standards - a year ago. In 2011-12, two-thirds of the conference's 12 teams finished with a winning record overall, and nine teams finished with a double-digit victory total in MIAC play. With the 2012-13 season about to tip off, MIAC fans are expecting more of the same, as the league appears to again have an incredible mix of talent and depth.

The strong year by the conference was championed by an amazing season by St. Thomas. Head Coach **Ruth Sinn's** team was perfect throughout a daunting conference schedule, going 22-0 in the regular season to capture the title, and it added two more wins in the MIAC Playoffs to grab the postseason crown as well. The Tommies made a splash on the national stage, going all the way to the Division III Final Four, where they finished third. UST racked up a remarkable 31-2 record with 30-straight wins, only losing the season opener, and in the national semifinals.



Gustavus was also a 20-win team and the runner-up in both the regular season and the MIAC playoffs, finishing 20-7 overall and 17-5 in conference play. Concordia, St. Olaf, Saint Mary's and Bethel rounded out the league's six-team Playoff field, with the Cardinals and Cobbers advancing to the semifinals. Augsburg, Macalester and Saint Benedict were just outside the postseason picture with at least 10 MIAC wins each, and Hamline, Carleton and St. Catherine rounded out the standings.

Though the Tommies won the league title by five games, the drama to join UST in the postseason field was intense all the way through the final day of the regular season, with nine teams competing for six Playoff spots. All those contenders appear to have an eye towards the postseason again in 2012-13, and it wouldn't be surprising to see the other three teams also insert themselves into the conversation as the competitive balance is expected to be at an all-time high.

Tommies atop the poll

With last season's championship experience and some extremely talented players back in the mix, it was no surprise to see Sinn's team atop the 2012-13 MIAC Women's Basketball Preseason Coaches' Poll as the favorite to again win the league title for the third year in a row. UST was the unanimous pick, receiving 11 of 12 first-place votes and 121 points in the poll, which does not allow coaches to vote for their own team.

The MIAC coaches tabbed Concordia as the Tommies' top competition for the league title, as the Cobbers received the other first-place vote and 105 total points to finish second in the poll. St. Olaf was also picked to return to the postseason with 96 points to finish third. That's where the league's parity starts to really show, as the next three teams were separated by just 12 points. Gustavus and Saint Mary's tied for the fourth spot with 87 points apiece, and Saint Benedict was predicted to return to the Playoffs by the league coaches with a sixth-place showing and 75 points.

Bethel finished seventh with 54 points, just four points ahead of Augsburg's 49. Hamline finished just six points behind the Auggies, coming in ninth with 43 points, and Carleton was another four points back in 10th with a total of 39. Macalester (25) and St. Catherine (11) rounded out the final two spots in the preseason predictions.

What's new?

This season, MIAC benches will have two new faces among the 10 familiar ones, as two new head coaches make their conference debuts this week. **Mickey Haller** stepped down after a successful run at Gustavus, and in to lead the Gusties in 2012-13 and beyond is **Laurie Kelly**. After nine years as head coach at Division I Northern Arizona, Kelly returns to the MIAC, where she had an All-American career at St. Thomas.

St. Catherine will also have new leadership, as **Gary Rufsvold** stepped aside from his coaching duties to assume a new role in the Wildcats' athletic department. **Sean Pinkerton** has been named SCU's interim head coach for the 2012-13 season after serving as the head coach at Morrisville State for three years with some assistant coach and high school credits on his resume' as well.

Who's back?

Though the Tommies graduated some talented seniors off last year's title team, reigning MIAC Coach-of-the-Year Sinn has plenty of firepower back to re-establish her squad as the favorite in the MIAC, and one of the top teams in all of Division III. All-America forward **Taylor Young** and All-MIAC center **Maggie Weiers** both return for their junior seasons to give St. Thomas the deepest, most talented frontcourt in the conference. Classmate **Kelly Brandenburg** emerged in the guard rotation a year ago, and could be poised for a breakout year in the Tommie backcourt.

The coaches tabbed Concordia to finish second because of the Cobbers' returning All-Conference talent. Head Coach **Jessica Rahman** welcomes back a trio of players who all averaged double-digit scoring figured a year ago, with senior forward **Tricia Sorensen** (13.6 ppg), senior guard **Emily Theising** (11.2 ppg) both back after All-MIAC seasons a year ago, and junior center **Alexandra Lippert** (10.6 ppg) was an All-Conference Honorable Mention selection.

The returning talent at St. Olaf is also staggering, as the Oles welcome back four players with at least 24 starts in their career. Two-time

All-MIAC guard **Mackenzie Wolter** (13.2 ppg) will again be among the league's best players this season, and **Elise Raney** (11.0 ppg) and All-Defensive team pick **Brittany Webber** will help the Oles try to return to the MIAC Playoffs in 2012-13.

Gustavus was the top threat to the Tommies' title hopes a year ago, and Kelly's first Gustie team has a pair of seniors back to lead the way. **Abby Rothenbuehler** led the MIAC in rebounds and is one of the top post presences in the league, and **Kelsey Florian** appears ready for a starring role after earning the MIAC Sixth Player-of-the-Year award in 2011-12. Meanwhile, Saint Mary's was one of the MIAC's most pleasant surprises a year ago, and the Cardinals will aim to continue their rise behind All-Conference returners **Jessica Thone** (13.7 ppg) and **Jamie Stefley** (12/3 ppg) who return as one of the league's highest-scoring duos.

All-MIAC senior wing **Whitney Canton** returns to lead Saint Benedict, which also gets forward **Morgan Dale** back after missing last season with an injury, as well as junior **Briann Barrett** and her 10.0 ppg. Bethel had to say goodbye to reigning MIAC Player-of-the-Year **Taylor Sheley** and her 19.3 points per game, but the Royals will try to return to the playoffs between All-Defensive Team guard **Kelly Swenson** and fellow seniors **Alicia Montbriand** and **Kristi Nye Studanski**.

The Auggies were another surprise team a year ago, upping their win total by nine behind first-year Head Coach **Bill McKee**, and Augsburg will look to take another step forward in 2012-13. The Auggies graduated All-MIAC star **Serenae Levine**, but bring back Honorable Mention pick **Brittany Zins** and talented sophomore **Abbey Luger**. Hamline could also compete for a Playoff spot this season behind a returning All-MIAC Honorable Mention backcourt duo of **Kara Poirier** and **Jordan Sammons**, the latter of which was named to the All-MIAC First Year Team as well after averaging 14.3 ppg.

Carleton's **Akemi Arzouman** will be looking for her third-straight All-MIAC honor as a senior after leading the Knights with 15.1 ppg last year, and she'll be joined by All-First Year Team selection **Skylar Tsutsui** and her 12.7 ppg. Macalester loses All-MIAC center **Holly Schiedermayer**, but hopes a seasoned guard trio of **Kyanna Jones**, **Taylor Pike** and **Emma Leyden** helps the Scots take a step forward under the direction of 2010-11 MIAC Coach-of-the-Year **Ellen Thompson**. In his first season, Pinkerton's St. Catherine team will be led by **Sarina Baker**, who averaged 16.6 ppg to earn All-First Year honors a season ago, and fellow sophomore **Sarah Mong** gives the new coach a strong foundation to build upon.

Circle these dates

The 2012-13 season officially tips off Thursday with one MIAC team - Concordia - taking the court in nonconference action, and the year will really begin in earnest this weekend with 14 games outside the conference on the schedule. The 12 teams will begin MIAC play on Nov. 28 and will wrap up the 2012 portion of the league schedule on Dec. 12. The 2013 portion of MIAC play will start on Jan. 2 with the regular season concluding on Saturday, Feb. 16. The MIAC Playoffs are set for quarterfinals on Feb. 19, semifinals on Feb. 21 and the postseason championship on Saturday, Feb. 23.

With 22 conference games on each team's schedule and a full double-round robin of MIAC action among the 12 teams, the season is sure to be action-packed. Add in the league's parity in 2012-13 and the intense battle for positioning in the MIAC standings and conference Playoffs, Thursday's tip off can't come soon enough for MIAC basketball fans.

A closer look

The rest of the 2012-13 MIAC Women's Basketball Preview contains more details and information about each team to provide a closer look at each MIAC squad as the season draws near. Scroll down to see complete results from the 2012-13 MIAC Women's Basketball Preseason Coaches' Poll, Playoff information, helpful links and team-by-team previews along with links to each team's women's basketball home page. This season, the team previews - provided by each school's sports information director - received a facelift to give fans a more user-friendly way to prepare for the upcoming season.

Continue to visit the MIAC Web site throughout the season for updated scores, standings, stats and more, and for additional updates and interaction connect to the MIAC on its social media pages, including [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [YouTube](#).

2012-13 MIAC Women's Basketball Preseason Coaches' Poll

Coaches voted for every team in the conference except their own team. Points were assigned for each vote (11 for first, 10 for second, etc.) Teams are ranked in order of highest point total to lowest with vote totals listed and first-place votes shown in parentheses.

2012-13 MIAC Women's Basketball Preseason Coaches' Poll		
Rank	Institution	Total
1	St. Thomas (11)	121
2	Concordia (1)	105
3	St. Olaf	96
T4	Gustavus	87
T4	Saint Mary's	87
6	Saint Benedict	75
7	Bethel	54
8	Augsburg	49
9	Hamline	43

10	Carleton	39
11	Macalester	25
12	St. Catherine	11

2012-13 MIAC Women's Basketball Playoffs

The 2012-13 MIAC Playoffs will feature the top six teams in the conference standings playing in a high-seed-host, single-elimination postseason tournament. The top two seeds receive first-round byes, with the other four squaring off in the quarterfinals. The two quarterfinal games will be held Feb. 19 with the winners advancing to the semifinals on Feb. 21. The championship is scheduled for Feb. 23. The winner will receive the MIAC's automatic bid to the 2012-13 NCAA Division III Women's Basketball Tournament.

MIAC Women's Basketball Links

| [Scoreboard & Stats](#) | [2012-13 Schedule](#) | [2011-12 Statistics](#) | [2011-12 Standings](#) | [Recordbook](#) | [Archives](#) |



AUGSBURG | [Auggies' women's basketball home page](#) |

Head Coach

- Bill McKee (Second season)

A Year Ago

- 11-11 MIAC (Seventh place) | 14-11 Overall

Top Returners

- Brittany Zins (SR, F | All-MIAC honorable mention in 2011-12; team-bests of 12.7 ppg and 7.3 rpg in 2011-12).
- Abbey Luger (SO, G | 5.8 ppg, 2.8 rpg, 29 steals, 22 assists, team-high 21 3-pointers in 2011-12).
- Katie Ahlstrom (SR, G | 2.9 ppg, 1.2 rpg in 18 games in 2011-12).

Key Losses

- Serenae Levine (G | All-MIAC in 2011-12, All-MIAC honorable mention in 2010-11 and 2008-09; 12.2 ppg, 5.3 rpg, 3.8 apg and 2.4 spg in 2011-12; finished career 3rd in school history with 1,032 career points).
- Lexi Thompson (G | 5.5 ppg, 2.4 rpg, 38 steals and 39 assists in 2011-12; played in 100 career games, finished career 6th in school history in steals (176)).
- Brittany Dyshaw (F | 7.9 ppg, 5.1 rpg in 2011-12; played in 72 career games, finished career 6th in school history in steals (178), 6th in blocked shots (56), 17th in rebounds (436)).

By the Numbers

- 14 – Single-season school record for victories, tied by Augsburg in 2011-12. Augsburg also finished 14-11 in the 1983-84 season.
- 11 – Single-season school record for victories in MIAC play, tied by Augsburg in 2011-12. Augsburg also had 11 conference wins (11-9) in both 1983-84 and 1984-85.
- 50 – Consecutive games Augsburg had lost to St. Benedict, spanning 25 seasons, before a 61-50 win on the Blazers' home court on Nov. 30, 2011.

Did You Know?

- Guard Serenae Levine, now serving as an assistant coach for the Auggies, completed her career in the top 15 in all four major career categories in Augsburg's school record book during her four-year career (2008-12) – third in scoring (1,032 points), second in assists (374), eighth in rebounds (576) and 11th in steals (160).

Off the Court

- Augsburg's women's basketball team was honored as the school's women's Most Improved Team of the Year at the 2012 Auggie Awards in April. Augsburg claimed a nine-win improvement, from a 5-20 finish in 2010-11 to a 14-11 finish in 2011-12.



BETHEL | [Royals' women's basketball home page](#) |

Head coach

- Jon Herbrechtsmeyer (11th season)

A Year Ago

- 12-10 MIAC (Sixth place) | 14-12 Overall

In the 2011-12 Postseason

- Lost to Concordia College 55-50 in MIAC quarterfinals at Moorhead, Minn.

Top Returners

- Kelly Swenson (G | Sr., 2011-12 MIAC All-Defensive Team, 8.5 ppg and 3.8 rpg in 2011-12 season – 12 games in double digit scoring)
- Alicia Montbriand (G/F | Sr., 5.9 ppg and 4.0 rpg in 2011-12 season – five games in double-digit scoring)
- Kristi Nye Studanski (G | Sr., 4.5 ppg and 2.2 apg in 2011-12 season)

Key Losses

- Taylor Sheley (G | 19.3 ppg, 5.9 rpg, 2.5 spg, 2.2 apg | 2011-12 MIAC Player of the Year, 2011-12 d3hoops.com All-Midwest Region First Team, 3-time All-MIAC, 2nd all-time in Bethel single-season scoring history, 5th all-time in school history for career scoring)

By the Numbers

- 58: The Royals finished the 2011-12 season 14-12, yet interestingly enough, Bethel discovered its magic number was 58, as BU finished 13-2 when scoring 58 points or more throughout last year's campaign. Furthermore, BU's only two losses, while scoring 58 or more, were both by a field goal.
- 14: Under the direction of Jon Herbrechtsmeyer and his coaching staff Bethel University's women's basketball team has tallied 14 wins in three of the past four seasons. This has aided the Royals to four playoff appearances in the last six years.
- 58.7: The Royals completed the 2011-12 season with a scoring mark of 58.7 points per game, an average that was eight points below the league leader. BU will need to find nearly 20 a night in order to reach that mark in 2012-13, as the 2011 MIAC Player of the Year, Taylor Sheley, averaged 19.3 points per game in her senior season.

Did You Know?

- Two players changed their last names since last season, as both Katelyn Vavra and Kristi Nye Studanski got married over the summer. Vavra and Nye Studanski—along with the rest of the Royals' squad—hope the wedding rings are not the only hardware they'll be receiving by the end of the year.

Off the Court

- Bethel University's women's basketball squad will be one of five teams traveling more than 1,200 miles to one destination in the 2012-13 school year. The Royals will be participating in a weekend tournament on December 28-29 in San Antonio, Texas.



CARLETON | [Knights' women's basketball home page](#) |

Head coach

- Cassie Kosiba (Third season)

A Year Ago

- 2-20 MIAC (11th place) | 3-22 Overall

Top Returners

- Akemi Arzouman (Sr., Guard-Forward | Named to All-First Year Team in 2009-10 then selected to All-MIAC squad in 2011 and 2012, averaged 15.1 ppg to lead team in scoring for second consecutive year, also ranked among conference leaders with 5.5 rebounds and .437 field-goal percentage)
- Skylar Tsutsui (So., Guard | Member of 2011-12 MIAC All-First Year Team, averaged 12.7 ppg, second among MIAC players with 60 made three-pointers)
- Jenny Ramey (Jr., Guard | Averaged 10.7 ppg, second among MIAC players with 4.24 assists per game)

Key Losses

- None, no seniors on last year's roster.

By the Numbers

- 2: Carleton was one of only two teams (also Hamline) to have three of the conference's top 20 scorers on the roster.
- 8: Akemi Arzouman has eight career 20+point games, including three last season. She's also notched a trio of career double-doubles.
- 14: Jenny Ramey's 14-assist performance against Buena Vista was tops among all MIAC players last year.

Did You Know?

- Skylar Tsutsui (34.48), Akemi Arzouman (34.24), and Jenny Ramey (33.92) ranked second, third, and fourth among conference players in minutes played last season.

Off the Court

- The Carleton women's basketball team volunteers in local classrooms and will be volunteering for Feed My Starving Children.



CONCORDIA | [Cobbers' women's basketball home page](#) |

Head coach

- Jessica Rahman (10th season)

A Year Ago

- 15-7 MIAC (Third place) | 18-9 Overall

In the 2011-12 Postseason

- 2012 MIAC Playoff Semifinalist – Defeated Bethel (55-50) in quarterfinals, lost to Gustavus (61-49) in semifinals

Top Returners

- Tricia Sorensen (Sr., F | 2011-12 All-MIAC, Led the team in scoring (13.6 ppg), rebounding (7.1 rpg) and steals (1.7 spg), sixth in the MIAC in rebounding and seventh in scoring)
- Emily Thesing (Sr., G | 2011-12 All-MIAC, Led the team in assists (3.1 apg), second in scoring (11.2 ppg) and third in rebounding (4.7), sixth in the MIAC in assists)
- Alex Lippert (Jr., C | 2011-12 All-MIAC Honorable Mention, led the MIAC in blocked shots (1.91/game), averaged 10.6 points/game and 6.3 rebounds/game)

Key Losses

- Mary-Michael Vance (G | Started 22 games, averaged 4.4 points/game and was third on the team in assists and steals)

By the Numbers

- 10: Concordia has made the MIAC playoffs for 10 consecutive seasons
- 15: Concordia has won at least 15 conference games in nine straight seasons – the longest streak of any school in the MIAC
- 318: Concordia senior Tricia Sorensen enters the season needing 318 points to become the 25th player in program history to reach the 1,000-point milestone

Did You Know?

- Concordia head coach Jessica Rahman's two sons both attend Concordia and both play baseball for the Cobbers. Braden, the older of the two, earned MIAC All-Conference honors in the 2012 season.

Off the Court

- Concordia senior Tricia Sorensen spends her summers as a juggler performing as part of the Medora Musical Show in Medora, N.D.



GUSTAVUS | [Gusties' women's basketball home page](#) |

Head coach

- Laurie Kelly (First Season)

A Year Ago

- 17-5 MIAC (Second place) | 20-7 Overall

In the 2011-12 Postseason

- No. 2 seed Gustavus defeated Concordia 61-49 in the MIAC playoff semifinals, lost to St. Thomas 66-54 in the MIAC playoff

championship.

Top Returners

- Abby Rothenbuehler (Sr., P, North Mankato, Minn.) | 2011-12 All Conference Honorable Mention...Finished second on the team in scoring with 269 total points and a 10.0 points per game average...Led the MIAC in rebounds per game (7.8) and finished with a team-high 211 boards...Shot .465 (107-230) from the field (7th/MIAC) and had a team-best 25 blocked shots.
- Kelsey Florian (Sr., W, Roseville, Minn.) | 2011-12 MIAC Sixth Player-of-the-Year...Finished third on the team in scoring with an 8.5 points per game average...Third on team in rebounding with 93 (3.6 rpg)...Led the team in free throw attempts, going 89-112 (.795) at the line.

Key Losses

- Molly Geske (G, Mendota Heights, Minn.) | Three-time All-Conference...MIAC All-Rookie Team (2008-09)...Gustavus' leading scorer the last three seasons...Scored 1,410 points over four-year career, ranking third in school history...CoSIDA Academic All-America 2nd Team (2011)...Academic All-District (2012).
- Collee Ruane (G, Edina, Minn.) | All-Conference (2011-12)...Two-time member of the MIAC All-Defensive Team...Holds program record for most steals in a career with 83...Became 16th player in Gustavus history to play in 100 games.

By the Numbers

- .431 - Gustavus' team field goal percentage, which ranked second in the MIAC. The Gusties also ranked second in three-point field goal percentage at .337.
- 5.37 - Senior Abby Rothenbuehler's defensive rebounding average per game last season. Rothenbuehler has brought down 468 rebounds over her career, ranking 14th all-time at Gustavus.
- 6 - The number of times since the turn of the century that Gustavus has recorded 20 or more wins in a season.

Did You Know?

- The Gustavus women's basketball team placed fifth on the Women's Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA) NCAA Division III Academic Top 25 Team Honor Roll for the 2011-12 season with a team grade point average of 3.577. The 2011-12 season marks seventh time that the Gustavus women's basketball team has cracked the top 10. This year's fifth place mark also matches Gustavus' second-highest finish in the history of the award (ranking second in 1997-98 and fifth in 1996-97).

Off the Court

- Spearheaded by Head Coach Laurie Kelly, the Gustavus women's basketball team and other members of the Gustavus Athletics Department took part in Walk to School Day - an annual event involves communities from more than 40 countries walking and biking to school on select days through the month of October. Students, parents, and Gusties walked side-by-side to school every Wednesday over the month.



HAMLIN | [Pipers' women's basketball home page](#) |

Head coach

- Kerri Stockwell (Third season)

A Year Ago

- 6-16 MIAC (10th place) | 7-18 Overall

Top Returners

- Kara Poirier (Sr., G, Eau Claire, Wis.) 33-34 from FT line in conf. games ; All-MIAC Honorable Mention
- Jordan Sammons (So., G, Burnsville, Minn.) 5th in league in scoring (14.3 ppg); All-MIAC First Year Team and Honorable Mention
- Steph Pilgrim (Sr., G, Maple Grove, Minn.); Led league in 3 pointers made (68)

Key Losses

- Steph Rice (F) 4.1ppg, 3.9 rpg in 19 games before being sidelined by injury

By the Numbers

- 3: Players returning who started every game last season
- 106: Total numbers of points scored in a double OT victory over St. Catherine
- 833: Total number of overall minutes played by G Kara Poirier, tied for 7th in the league.

Did You Know?

- The Pipers' 106-100 victory over St. Catherine was the only time all season any MIAC team hit the century figure for points.

Off the Court

- Several Piper players participated in a mentoring program at Horace Mann School in St. Paul.
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MACALESTER | [Scots' women's basketball home page](#) |

Head coach

- Ellen Thompson (Eighth season)

A Year Ago

- 10-12 MIAC (T-8th place) | 12-13 Overall

Top Returners

- Kyanna Jones (Sr., G | 7.3 ppg., 5.5 rpg., 1.7 spg., 2.3 apg.)
- Taylor Pike (Jr., G | 2.4 ppg.)
- Emma Leyden (Jr., G | 2.4 ppg.)

Key Losses

- Holly Schiedermayer (C | All-MIAC, 15.4 ppg., 7.8 rpg., .589 FG%)
- Jessica Rene (G | 11.6 ppg, 976 career points)
- Maggie Wood (G | 8.8 ppg., 5.6 rpg., 3.0 spg.)

By the Numbers

- 73: Graduating seniors Holly Schiedermayer, Jessica Rene, Shannon Rene and Maggie Wood accounted for 73% of Macalester's point total a year ago.
- 3: The Scots have reached double digits in the MIAC win column in each of the past three seasons under Coach Thompson
- 7: Macalester's roster consists of players from seven states.

Did You Know?

- The last two Macalester College Female Athlete of the Year awards went to women's basketball players – Majra Mucic in 2010-11 and Holly Schiedermayer in 2011-12.

Off the Court

- Earlier this fall, the Macalester women's basketball team packed food to go overseas areas in need for Feed Our Starving Children in Coon Rapids.



SAINT BENEDICT | [Blazers women's basketball home page](#) |

Head coach

- Mike Durbin (27th season)

A Year Ago

- 10-12 MIAC (T-8th place) | 13-10 Overall

Top Returners

- Whitney Canton (Sr., Wing | All-MIAC, team leading 10.3 ppg and 23.7 mpg, shot .391 from the field)
- Morgan Dale (Sr., Forward | Missed 2011-12 due to injury, in 2010-11 started 14 games and shot .481 from the field and .818 from the line, scored 6.9 ppg with 4.3 rpg.
- Briann Barrett (Jr., Wing | started 10 games, scored 10.0 ppg, shot .470 from the field and .785 from the line)

Key Losses

- Sam Larsen (Forward. | Started in 21 games, scored 8.2 ppg with 4.6 rpg, shot .575 from the floor)
- Cassie Dorschner (Guard | started in 21 games, played 22.3 mpg, scored 4.4 ppg, totaled 37 assists)

By the Numbers

- 1: Season under Mike Durbin where the Blazers did not finish fourth in the MIAC or better, 2011-12
- 13: Combined first-years and sophomores in the Blazers 19 player roster.

Did You Know?

- Blazer basketball does not get to play at home until nearly December. They open the season in the Rocky Mountain state for two games at

Colorado College, and then travel to UW-River Falls for a nonconference game. Then finally on Nov. 28, they get to open the home season, hosting Hamline in MIAC action.



ST. CATHERINE | [Wildcats' women's basketball home page](#) |

Head coach

- Sean Pinkerton (First season, interim)

A Year Ago

- 0-22 MIAC (12th place) | 1-24 Overall

Top Returners

- Sarina Baker (So., F | 2nd in MIAC scoring, 16.6 avg.; 14th in MIAC rebounding, 5.6 avg.; All-MIAC First-year Team)
- Sarah Mong (So., G/F | 5.8 scoring avg., 3.5 rebounding avg.)
- Kristen Lee (Jr., G/F | 5.1 scoring avg., 3.5 rebounding avg.)

Key Losses

- Megan Zillmer (G | 5.5 scoring avg., 28.7 minutes per game)

By the Numbers

- 3: The Wildcats ranked third of all MIAC teams last season in free throw percentage and offensive rebounds.
- 21: Sarina Baker was the leading Wildcat scorer in 21 of the team's 25 games last season. She also scored over 20 points in eight games as a rookie and ranked 76th in all of Division III for points per game (16.6).
- 81: The Wildcat roster is made up of 81 percent first-year and sophomore talent that will lead the team on the court this season.

Did You Know?

- The Wildcats played in the highest-scoring affair of all MIAC women's and men's basketball games last season in a 106-100 double overtime loss to Hamline on Dec. It was the only conference game last year to go over 200 total points.

Off the Court

- This fall the Wildcat basketball team volunteered time teaching basketball at a local Boys & Girls Club and also packed food at Feed My Starving Children.
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SAINT MARY'S | [Cardinals' women's basketball home page](#) |

Head coach

- Mandy Pearson (Sixth season)

A Year Ago

- 13-9 MIAC (Fifth place) | 14-13 Overall

In The 2011-12 Postseason

- MIAC Tournament: vs. St. Olaf (W, 55-52), vs. St. Thomas (L, 58-45)

Top Returners

- Jessica Thone (5-8, Sr, G | 13.7 ppg, 41 3FG, 113 Rebounds, 123 Assists, 54 steals | First-Team All-MIAC)
- Jamie Stefely (6-1, Sr., F/P | 12.3 ppg, 146 FG, 201 Rebounds | First-Team All-MIAC)
- Courtney Euerle (6-1, Jr., P | 8.6 ppg, 92 FG, 170 Rebounds, 40 Assists | MIAC All-Defensive Team)

Key Losses

- Emily DeWitt (1.7 ppg, 12 3FG, 37 Rebounds, 18 Assists)

By The Numbers

- 6: Six of SMU's 14 wins last season came when the Cardinals trailed at halftime.
- 11: The Cardinals boasted 11 double-doubles last season. Jamie Stefely (Lisle, Ill.) led the team with seven, while Courtney Euerle (Litchfield, Minn.) had three and Jessica Thone had one.

- 178: Jessica Thone (Woodbury, Minn.) needs just 178 points to become the 10th player in program history to reach 1,000 career points — and the first since Jess Miller reached the 1,000-point plateau during the 2010-2011 season.

Did You Know?

- Jessica Thone, who eclipsed the 100-assist mark with six helpers against Macalester on Feb. 4, led the team — and the entire MIAC — with 123 assists last season. Thone's 123 assists rank No. 5 all-time and are the most since Jamie Rattunde dished out 125 in both the 2003-2004 and 2004-2005 seasons.

Off The Court

- The SMU women's basketball program, joined by the fastpitch softball and volleyball teams, spent nine days in Italy last May. Italy was hit by a May 20 earthquake that Italian emergency officials called the region's worst since the 1300s — just three days before the teams departed from Minneapolis. A second deadly quake hit the same region on May 29, about 36 hours after the SMU teams had passed through. It registered a 5.8 on the Richter scale, killing 16 people and destroying at least one 500-year-old cathedral.



ST. OLAF | [Oles' women's basketball home page](#) |

Head coach

- Dave Stromme (Sixth Season)

A Year Ago

- 14-8 MIAC (Fourth place) | 17-9 Overall

In the 2011-12 Postseason

- 2012 MIAC Playoffs - lost to Saint Mary's in first round

Top Returners

- Mackenzie Wolter (Sr., G | 13.2 ppg, 4.1 rpg, 3.23 assts/gm... Two-time All-MIAC, led MIAC in assists-turnover ratio, was 8th in scoring, 4th in assists, 2nd in steals, 6th in 3's and 4th in FT pct.)
- Elise Raney (Jr., C | 11.0 ppg, 6.3 rpg, 1.9 blocks/gm)
- Brittany Webber (Jr., G | All-MIAC Defensive team in 2011-12)

Key Losses

- None

By the Numbers

- 20: St. Olaf was 15-1 when making 20 or more field goals last season. When making 19 or less, the Oles were 1-8.
- 6: St. Olaf plays its first six games on the road. The first three will be played in Colorado, where six Oles call home.
- 7: The Oles play seven of their first eight of 2013 at home and eight of 11 in January at home. St. Olaf was 11-2 at Skoglund Center last season.

Did You Know?

- The Oles have 233 starts (of a possible 380 over the last three seasons) to their credit: Mackenzie Wolter (76), Erin Haglund (75), Eileen O'Donoghue (48), Brittany Webber (24), Elise Raney (5), Ashley Menzel (5).



ST. THOMAS | [Tommies' women's basketball home page](#) |

Head coach

- Ruth Sinn (Eighth season)

A Year Ago

- 22-0 MIAC (First place) | 31-2 Overall

In the 2011-12 Postseason

- 2012 MIAC Playoff Champs (2-0) - Def. SMU (58-45) in semifinals, def. Gustavus (66-54) in championship
- 2012 NCAA Division III Playoffs (5-1) - Defeated Martin Luther, Coe, Tufts, Calvin, lost in semifinals to Illinois Wesleyan, beat Amherst in 3rd place game

Top Returners

- Taylor Young, JR, F, All-America, All-MIAC Career: 716 points, 249 rebounds, 132 assists, 79 FT% • Maggie Weiers, JR, C, All-MIAC, Career: 60 games, 625 points, 376 rebounds, 78 FT%
- Kelly Brandenburg, JR, G, 2011-12: 6.5 ppg, 76FT%

Key Losses

- Sarah Smith, Grad, F Career: 113 games, 830 points, 649 rebounds
- Ali Johnson, Grad, G Career: 99 Games, 174 3-pointers, 92% FT
- Carolyn Dienhart, Grad, PG Career: 82 games, 353 points, 114 assists, 106 rebounds

By the Numbers

- 16: Tommies' current home-court win streak, part of 27-3 record at new Schoenecker Arena
- 758: Team free-throw percentage in 32 games last season, new school record
- 51-9: UST won-loss record since juniors Taylor Young and Maggie Weiers joined program

Did You Know?

- The No. 3-ranked Tommies play No. 1-ranked Calvin and No. 7 UW-Stevens Point in first 10 games of season

Off the Court

- The Tommies had a 3.52 grade-point average in 2010-11 and a 3.29 gpa in 2011-12
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