

# 2013-14 MIAC Women's Basketball Preview and Preseason Coaches' Poll

Posted: Nov 14, 2013

[Skip to:](#) | [Coaches' Poll](#) | [Playoffs](#) | [Links](#) | [Team Previews](#) |

## 2013-14 MIAC Women's Basketball Conference Preview

ST. PAUL, Minn. -- It doesn't get much more entertaining than women's basketball in the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (MIAC) a year ago. The race for the conference title came down to the final day, and only two games separated the league's top four teams. The 2013-14 season is about to begin, and it has a tough act to follow, but with talent back for the top teams and other programs on the rise, it appears the MIAC teams are up to the challenge.

Last season, Concordia (21-7, 19-3 MIAC) barely edged St. Thomas (24-6, 18-4 MIAC) and Saint Mary's (22-5, 18-4 MIAC) for the conference's regular-season championship, and Saint Benedict (20-7, 17-5 MIAC) also joined the 20-win club to give the conference quite a top for. Those same teams battled it out in the MIAC Playoffs, with the Tommies edging the Cobbers for the title and both teams advancing to the NCAA Division III Tournament.

Gustavus and Hamline - the final two teams to make the six-team MIAC Playoff field - were no slouches either, as they each went 14-8 in league play. The Gusties were 15-11 overall and the Pipers finished 14-12. St. Olaf wasn't far behind the top six, finishing 12-13 overall and 10-12 in conference play.

Augsburg (9-16, 7-15 MIAC) edged Carleton (6-19, 6-16 MIAC) by a game for eighth place, with Bethel (6-19, 5-17 MIAC) just a game behind the Knights. Macalester (4-21, 3-19 MIAC) and St. Catherine (2-23, 1-21 MIAC) rounded out the final two spots in the conference standings.

In 2013-14, many of the same teams are expected to compete for the conference title and the six bids to the MIAC Playoffs. It's entirely possible the postseason bids, seeds and even the conference title could still be up in the air heading into the season's final day once again. Which contenders will return to the top of the standings? Which teams will outperform expectations? Which players will raise their game another notch? Fortunately, the answers to those questions aren't far off with the season just a day away.

## COACHES TAKE TOMMIES FOR TITLE

Thanks to its returning talent and postseason performance a year ago, St. Thomas emerged as the unanimous pick of the MIAC coaches to win the 2013-14 conference championship. The Tommies received 11 first-place votes and 121 points to finish atop the 2013-14 MIAC Women's Basketball Preseason Coaches' Poll. Since coaches couldn't vote for their own team, St. Thomas finished first with a perfect score.

It was practically a toss-up for the conference coaches to pick the Tommies' top challenger, as Saint Benedict received the other first-place vote and 103 points to finish second, just one point ahead of defending MIAC champion Concordia, which came in third with 102 points. The next two teams - Saint Mary's and St. Olaf - were grouped close together as well as the Cardinals received 89 points to come in fourth and the Oles were fifth with 83 points. Coaches picked Gustavus to grab the sixth and final Playoff spot with 69 points.

Bethel was predicted to be the first team outside the postseason field, as the Royals finished seventh in the poll with 60 points. Augsburg edged Carleton and St. Catherine for ninth place, as the Auggies received 38 points to 33 for the Knights and 30 for the Wildcats. Macalester and its 18 points rounded out the preseason predictions.

## WHAT'S NEW?

It's a season of stability in the MIAC, as none of the 12 teams made a coaching change in the offseason. The 2013-14 season also marks the final campaign for the conference under its current schedule format. Things will look drastically different in 2014-15, as the MIAC women's basketball schedule will change from a 22-game schedule to an 18-game slate. That means teams will no longer play a home-and-home with every single MIAC foe.

Beginning next season, the MIAC teams will play all 11 teams once, and seven of the 11 a second time. This will allow coaches more scheduling flexibility and benefit the well-being of MIAC student-athletes, as it will reduce the three-games-a-week schedule the MIAC women currently face in January and February.

## WHO'S BACK?

The Tommies were picked to emerge atop a talented crop of teams in 2013-14 because of all the talent and experience back in Ruth Sinn's lineup. St. Thomas only graduated one key contributor - point guard Kellie Ring - from last season's team. Star forward Taylor Young is back for the final chapter of her All-American career. Junior center Maggie Weiers will give UST a huge lift in the paint after missing 2012-13 with an injury, and junior forward Anna Smith helps make St. Thomas' frontcourt one of the best in the MIAC, and all of Division III.



Saint Benedict has a talented squad back in Mike Durbin's 28th season on the bench, and he enters the new campaign just six wins shy of 600 in his stellar coaching career. All-MIAC senior Brianna Barrett and her 15.1 points per game are back to lead the Blazers, and senior forward Morgan Dale will team with sophomore forward Mattie Lueck to anchor Saint Ben's in the paint.

The Cobbers are tasked with replacing MIAC Player-of-the-Year Emily Thesing and fellow star Tricia Sorensen, but Head Coach Jessica Rahman has more than enough talent back to keep Concordia in the hunt for another MIAC title. Guards Alley Fisher and Erika Jossart give Concordia a talented, veteran backcourt, and center Alexandra Lippert is one of the league's most imposing forces under the basket with more than 500 rebounds and 200 blocked shots in her career.

Saint Mary's had an outstanding breakout season a year ago under MIAC Coach-of-the-Year Mandy Pearson, and hopes remain high despite the graduation of two-time All-Conference honorees Jessica Thone and Jamie Stefely. Senior post Courtney Euerle returns as one of the league's top defenders, and guards Bridget Pethke and Darcey Rice will have expanded roles as they look to guide the Cardinals back to the postseason.

St. Olaf said goodbye to three-time All-MIAC star Mackenzie Wolter, but that's the only significant loss for Head Coach Dave Stromme. MIAC Sixth Player-of-the-Year Kim Cerjan will look for more responsibility as a sophomore in the Ole backcourt, and senior Elise Raney and junior Nikki Frogner will hold down the St. Olaf frontcourt. Gustavus is looking to improve in the second year of the Laurie Kelly era. Senior guard Julia Dysthe and sophomore post Karina Schroeder will lead the way for the Gusties, and they try to ease the loss of All-MIAC forward Abby Rothenbuehler and fellow forward Kelsey Florian.

Bethel returns one of the MIAC's brightest stars in 2013 D3hoops.com and MIAC Rookie-of-the-Year Rachel Paprusky. Head Coach John Herbrechtsmeyer also brings back talented guards Katelyn Vavra and Sydney Schultz to bolster the Royals' postseason hopes. Hamline Head Coach Kerri Stockwell aspires to lead the Pipers on a return trip to the MIAC Playoffs, and those hopes start with All-Region and All-MIAC guard Jordan Sammons. Fellow guard Je'Naya Brown and forward Rachel Usgaard are also back to help Hamline in 2013-14.

Augsburg brings back an experienced backcourt to lead the way in Head Coach Bill McKee's third season. Senior guard/forward Jill Tichy scored in double-digits a year ago, and guards Jolene Blood and Abbey Luger will again be key contributors for the Auggies. Carleton Head Coach Cassie Kosiba graduated two-time All-MIAC star Akemi Arzouman, but the Knights have a talented backcourt back in Northfield. All-MIAC guard Skylar Tsutsui and Jenny Ramey are both back, as is senior forward Emma Purfeerst and her 10.5 points and 6.4 rebounds per game.

St. Catherine hopes to take a dramatic step forward in Head Coach Sean Pinkerton's second season with no significant losses from a year ago. Senior Kristen Lee is back to lead the way, with junior Sarah Manning and sophomore Shauna Horsch back to give the Wildcats a versatile and talented trio, as all three can play guard or forward. Macalester lost clutch All-MIAC Honorable Mention guard Kyanna Jones, but Head Coach Ellen Thompson has talent back, starting with senior post Veronika Jakubovie (11.1 ppg, 6.1 rpg). Guards Taylor Pike and Erin Murray are also back to solidify the Scots' backcourt.

### **CIRCLE THESE DATES**

Fortunately fans of the MIAC don't have much longer to wait for the fun to start, as the 2013-14 season can officially tip off Friday. Six conference teams open their season with nonconference contests Friday and two more start Saturday. The first full day of conference play will be Dec. 4, and the regular season will conclude on Sat., Feb. 22. The MIAC Playoffs will be held the following week.

The top two teams in the coaches' poll - St. Thomas and Saint Benedict meet in a pair of huge matchups on Dec. 14 in St. Paul, and on the season's final day (Feb. 22) in St. Joseph. Two more teams with title aspirations - Concordia and Saint Mary's - will also meet in a home-and-home series with big implications. The Cobbers host the Cardinals Jan. 4, then travel to Winona Feb. 1.

St. Olaf and Gustavus both hope to be in the MIAC Playoff picture, and their matchups will be critical to each teams' success. The Oles host the Gusties on Jan. 4, and Gustavus returns the favor by hosting St. Olaf on Feb. 1. Bethel and Hamline also have high hopes for 2013-14 and their matchups should be entertaining. The Royals host the Pipers on Jan. 11 and they square off again in St. Paul on Feb. 8.

Augsburg and Carleton both enter the season with aspirations to ascend the MIAC standings in 2013-14, and their head-to-head series will be important for both squads. The Knights travel to Minneapolis on Jan. 15, while the Auggies head to Northfield on Feb. 19. St. Catherine and Macalester will meet in a pair of classic cross-town rivalry games that will also be a big factor on both teams' hopes this season. The Wildcats will host the Scots on Jan. 18, and Macalester will welcome St. Catherine to campus on Feb. 15.

### **A CLOSER LOOK**

The rest of the 2013-14 MIAC Women's Basketball Preview contains complete results from the 2013-14 Preseason Coaches' Poll, MIAC Playoff details, helpful links and a preview for each team submitted by their sports information director. The new MIAC web site - [www.miacathletics.com](http://www.miacathletics.com) - will be an outstanding source for MIAC women's basketball news, schedules, scores, stats and more throughout the 2013-14 season.

Visit the [MIAC scoreboard](#) on game days to follow all the action, and download the [MIAC mobile app](#) to have all the information with you anywhere you travel. Also, connect to the conference on its [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [YouTube](#) pages for updates and interaction all season long.

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### **2013-14 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.

## 2013-14 MIAC Women's Basketball Preseason Coaches' Poll

Rank	Institution	Total
1	St. Thomas (11)	121
2	Saint Benedict (1)	103
3	Concordia	102
4	Saint Mary's	89
5	St. Olaf	83
6	Gustavus	69
7	Bethel	60
8	Hamline	46
9	Augsburg	38
10	Carleton	33
11	St. Catherine	30
12	Macalester	18

### 2013-14 MIAC Women's Basketball Playoffs

The 2013-14 MIAC Playoffs will feature the top six teams in the conference standings playing in a high-seed-host, single-elimination postseason tournament. The two top seeds will receive a bye to the semifinal round, while the No. 3 seed will host the No. 6 seed, and the No. 4 seed will host the No. 5 seeds during the quarterfinals, which will be held Tuesday, Feb. 25. The top remaining seed will play at the No. 2 seed and the lowest remaining seed will play at the No. 1 seed during the semifinals, which are scheduled for Thursday, Feb. 27. The championship game is set for Saturday, March 1, with the two semifinal winners meeting on home court of the top remaining seed. The winner will receive the MIAC's automatic bid to the 2013-14 NCAA Division III Women's Basketball Tournament.

| [MIAC Women's Basketball Playoffs Web Sites](#) | [2012-13](#) | [2013-14](#) |

### MIAC Women's Basketball Links

| [2013-14 MIAC Schedule](#) | [2012-13 MIAC Statistics](#) | [MIAC Recordbook](#) | [MIAC Archives](#) |

### MIAC Team-by-Team Previews

| [AUG](#) | [BU](#) | [CAR](#) | [CON](#) | [GAC](#) | [HU](#) | [MAC](#) | [CSB](#) | [SCU](#) | [SMU](#) | [STO](#) | [UST](#) |



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

##### **Head coach**

- Bill McKee (Third season)

##### **A Year Ago**

- 7-15 MIAC (Eighth place) | 9-16 Overall

##### **Top Returners**

- Jill Tichy (G/F, SR | Played in 25 games, led the team in minutes played (31.4), averaged 10.2 ppg and 3.7 rpg in 2012-13.)
- Jolene Blood (G, SR | Averaged 8.8 ppg, led the team in assists per-game (2.27), made a team high 35 three-pointers in 2012-13.)
- Abbey Luger (G, JR | Averaged a team-high 4.92 rpg and 7.4 ppg, led the team with 53 steals in 2012-13.)

##### **Key Losses**

- Anne Skriba (Guard | All-MIAC Honorable Mention in 2012-13, team's leading scorer averaging 11.0 ppg, team captain)
- Katie Ahlstrom (G | Played in all 25 games, team leader in field goal pct. (.500), team captain)
- Marissa Lurken (G | Played in 13 games, team captain)

##### **By the Numbers**

- 13.4: team offensive rebounds per-game, good for third-best in the conference among MIAC statistics.
- 14.0: team assists per-game, tops among MIAC schools
- 4.0: team blocks per-game, fourth-best in the MIAC among conference statistics.

##### **Did You Know?**

- Augsburg assistant coach Joshua Hersch is a 2009 Augsburg graduate and health and physical education major.

### Off the Court

- The Augsburg women's basketball team put on a youth basketball clinic at Cretin-Derham Hall on Nov. 8.



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

### Head coach

- Jon Herbrechtsmeyer (12th season)

### A Year Ago

- 5-17 MIAC (10th place) | 6-19 Overall

### Top Returners

- Rachel Parupsky (Forward, So. | 2013 D3hoops.com Rookie of the Year, 2013 MIAC All-Conference, All-Defensive, All-First-Year Team, 16.0 PPG, 9.0 RPG, 4.4 BPG, 48.2 FG%)
- Katelyn Vavra (Guard, Sr. | 8.2 PPG, 2.2 RPG, 1.2 APG, 37.1 3PT%)
- Sydney Schultz (Guard, So. | 8.2 PPG, 2.5 RPG, 1.5 APG, 34.1 3PT%)

### Key Losses

- Kelly Swenson (Guard | MIAC All-Defensive Team, 5.4 PPG, 5.7 RPG, 1.6 APG)
- Kristi Nye Studanski (Guard | 3.6 PPG, 2.7 RPG, 3.4 APG)
- Alicia Montbriand (Forward | 1.8 PPG, 2.0 RPG)

### By the Numbers

- 7: Sydney Schultz broke Bethel's all-time record for 3-pointers made in a single game on January 5, 2013, when the guard from Dalton, Minn., cashed in on seven 3-pointers against St. Olaf College. Schultz finished the day with 21 points on 7-of-15 (46.7 percent) shooting from downtown.
- 6.2: The Royals led the conference in blocks per game with an average of 6.2 swats against each opponent. Rachel Parupsky led the team with 4.5 blocks per contest, which not only led the league, but also ranked No. 2 among all Division III players nationwide. Parupsky's recorded two games with double-digit blocks.
- 8.2: Katelyn Vavra and Sydney Schultz were second on the team in scoring last season, as each of them averaged 8.2 points per game. The two were Bethel's primary perimeter shooters, as Vavra led the Royals with 53 3-pointers and Schultz was just behind with 47.

### Did You Know?

- Following the 2012-13 season Rachel Parupsky was honored to the MIAC All-Conference, All-Defensive, and All-First-Year Team. No player in MIAC history has ever been honored to all three teams. Parupsky's accolades didn't end there, as she was awarded the D3hoops.com West Region Rookie of the Year honor after averaging 16.0 points, 9.0 rebounds, and 4.5 blocks per game.

### Off the Court

- Six members of the Bethel University women's basketball team earned MIAC Academic All-Conference honors last year. This was tied for the most by any team in the league. In order to receive this award, players must maintain a GPA of 3.5 or better and play in 50 percent of the team's total contests.



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

### Head coach

- Cassie Kosiba (Fourth season)

### A Year Ago

- 6-16 MIAC (Ninth place) | 6-19 Overall

### Top Returners

- Jenny Ramey- (Guard, Sr | 7.68 ppg, 3.56 apg, 3.24 rpg, and 2.92 spg in 2012-13)
- Emma Purfeerst- (Forward, Sr | 2011 MIAC All-First-Year Team, 10.5 ppg with 6.4 rpg in 2012-13)
- Skylar Tsutsui- (Guard, Jr | 2012 MIAC All-First-Year Team; 2013 All-MIAC; 13.5 ppg, 1.9 3FG/game in 2012-13)

### Key Losses

- Akemi Arzouman – Guard/Forward | (12.5 career ppg, 1027 career pts., First Team All-MIAC in 2011-12 and 2012-13)

### By the Numbers

- 85.1: Returning All-MIAC member Skylar Tsutsui led the Knights in scoring last season with 13.5 points per game. That number was in large part to her 85.1% free-throw percentage, which ranked second in the conference.
- 81: Despite a small roster of nine players, the Knights return 81 percent of their scoring from last season. Four of the Knight's top five scorers are back this year with Skylar Tsutsui (13.5), Emma Purfeerst (10.5), Jenny Ramey (7.7), and Gabbi Stienstra (7.4).
- 300: Jenny Ramey was the Knight's top distributor for the last two seasons and now has 300 for her career. Ramey may have the opportunity to catch Melissa William's school record of 425 career assists by the end of the season.

### Did You Know?

- Sophomore Michelle Arima is ambidextrous. She not only utilizes this skill while dribbling, but also while shooting. Inside the 3-point arc

Arima shoots with her right, while behind the arc she uses her left.

### Off the Court

- Biology major Jessica Huang represented the Knights on the Academic All-Conference list last year.



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

### Head coach

- Jessica Rahman (11th season)

### A Year Ago

- 19-3 MIAC (First place) | 21-7 Overall

### In the 2013 Postseason

- Beat St. Ben's 64-48 in the MIAC Semifinals
- Lost to St. Thomas 58-50 in the MIAC Championship
- Lost to UW-Stevens Point 72-64 in the NCAA 1st Round

### Top Returners

- Alley Fisher (G, Jr. | 2012-13 All-MIAC Honorable Mention; led the team in 3-point fg pct. (41.0%) and free throw pct. (86.5%) in 2012-13)
- Erika Jossart (G, Sr. | 2012-13 MIAC All-Defensive Team; led the team in assists (3.7 apg) in 2012-13; had at least four rebounds in 13 of the 22 MIAC contests)
- Alexandra Lippert (C, Sr. | 2012-13 All-MIAC Honorable Mention; averaged 10.0 ppg and 6.5 rpg in 2012-13; has over 500 rebounds and 200 blocks in her career)

### Key Losses

- Tricia Sorensen (F | 2012-13 WBCA All-American; 2-time All-MIAC; led the team in scoring (14.0 ppg) and rebounding (7.1 rpg); scored over 1,000 points and collected more than 500 rebounds in her career)
- Emily Thesing (G | 2012-13 MIAC MVP; 2012-13 D3hoops.com All-Region First Team; 2-time All-MIAC; led the team in 3-pt field goals (53) and averaged 13.0 ppg and 5.0 rpg in 2012-13)

### By the Numbers

- 8: Concordia head coach Jessica Rahman needs eight more wins to become the first coach in Cobber basketball history to reach the 200 win mark.
- 168: Cobber senior center Alexandra Lippert needs 168 more points to become the first player in Concordia women's basketball history to score 1,000 points, grab 500 rebounds and block 200 shots in a career.
- 779: Concordia has 779 program wins since the team's first recorded season in 1974-75.

### Did You Know?

- The 2013-14 season will be the 40th anniversary of the Cobbers' first recorded season in 1974-75.



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

### Head coach

- Laurie Kelly (Second season)

### A Year Ago

- 14-8 (Fifth place) | 15-11 Overall

### In the 2013 Postseason

- Gustavus fell in the MIAC Playoff Quarterfinals to Saint Mary's 76-69.

### Top Returners

- Julia Dysthe (Guard, Sr., White Bear Lake, Minn.) | 2012-13 All-Conference Honorable Mention...Started in all 26 games and played in a team-high 829 minutes (31.9 mpg) last season...Finished second on the team in scoring with 319 points for an average of 12.3 points per game...Shot 46.3-percent (126-272) from the field, 26.1-percent (23-88) from three-point range, and 89.8-percent (44-49) from the free throw line...Scored in double-figures 18 times with a 23-point performance coming against Saint Mary's on Jan. 30.
- Karina Schroeder (Post, So., Lake Crystal, Minn.) | Member of the 2012-13 All-First-Year Team...Gustavus's fourth leading scorer as a rookie, averaging 9.6 points per game and shooting a team-best 54.2-percent from the field...Played in 25-of-26 games and averaged 22.2 minutes per game...Ranked second on the team in rebounding with a total of 141 boards (5.6 rpg)...Scored double-digit points in five of Gustavus's last six games of the season.

### Key Losses

- Abby Rothenbuehler (Forward) | 2012-13 All-Conference...Led Gustavus in scoring with a career-high 327 points and a 12.6 points per game average... Shot 48.3-percent (129-267) from the field, 44.7-percent (17-38) from three-point range, and 74.3-percent (52-70) at the free throw last season...Brought down 213 rebounds, averaging a near double-double with a rounding average of 8.2...Played in 106 career games, scoring 897 points and shooting 44.9-percent from the field...Ranks fifth in program history in rebounds with 681.
- Kelsey Florian (Forward) | 2012-13 All-Conference Honorable Mention...2012 MIAC Sixth Player-of-the-Year...Played in 25-of-26 games last

season and finished third on the team in scoring with 289 points for an average of 11.6 points per game...Shot 42.9-percent (90-210) from the field and got to the free throw line a team-high 126 times.

### By the Numbers

- 55.1: Sophomore post Karina Schroeder's field goal percentage within league play last season. As a rookie, Schroeder averaged 10.2 points per game and 5.8 rebounds per game against conference opponents.
- 10: The number of games in a row Julia Dysthe reached double-figures in at the end of 2012-13 campaign. Dysthe averaged 14.5 points per game down the backstretch of Gustavus's last 10 games of the season.
- 8: The number of league games Gustavus won consecutively before suffering a loss last season. Gustavus's 8-0 start in MIAC play last year was the second-best in program history behind the 2002-03 team who began its conference schedule with 10 straight victories.

### Did You Know?

- The 2013-14 Gustavus women's basketball roster features just one player who hails from a state other than Minnesota. Other than two-sport (volleyball and basketball) athlete Kelle Nett (So., Spring Valley, Ill.), Head Coach Lauries Kelly's team is made up of all Minnesota natives.

### Off the Court

- Making their 15th appearance on the Women's Basketball Coaches Association's (WBCA) Academic Top 25 Team Honor Roll, the 2012-13 Golden Gusties were recognized as the team with the top cumulative grade point average in country at a 3.600 – a first in the program's history. The Gusties have secured a place inside the top 10 a total of eight times with their other top finishes coming in a second place standing in 1997-98 and a pair of fifth place marks in 1996-97 and 2011-12.



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

### Head coach

- Kerri Stockwell (Fourth season)

### A Year Ago

- 14-8 MIAC (T-5th place) | 14-12 Overall

### Top Returners

- Jordan Sammons, (G, Jr., 8.9 RPG – 2nd in MIAC; 3.2 SPG – 2nd; 14.9 ppg-4th; All-MIAC, All-Region)
- Je'Naya Brown (G, Sr., 2.8 SPG, 2.2 APG, 8.6 PPG)
- Rachel Usgaard (Jr, F, 4.1 PPG)

### Key Losses

- Steph Pilgrim (G, 16.3 PPG, led MIAC; All-MIAC pick)
- Kara Poirier (G, 4 year starter, averaged 9.4 PPG last year; No. 2 all time in assists at HU, 255)
- Cassidy Vogt (C, 25 GP, 6.7 PPG, 4.2 RPG)

### By the Numbers

- 5: Number of Pipers who averaged 27+ minutes per game last season.
- 6: number of consecutive road victories HU had to end the regular season (school record)
- 9: place where the Pipers were picked in last year's Pre-season Poll. They finished tied for 5th.

### Did You Know?

- Jordan Sammons was picked for the d3hoops.com West Region second team? She was second on the team in Minutes Played (30.1) and second in the MIAC in Rebounds and Steals.

### Off the Court

- The Pipers went to Arc Value Village last January and helped package over \$5,000 in merchandise. Arc Value works with people to live an independent lifestyle.

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**MACALESTER** | [Scots' women's basketball home page](#) |



### Head coach

- Ellen Thompson (Ninth season)

### A Year Ago

- 3-19 MIAC (11th place) | 4-21 Overall

### Top Returners

- Veronika Jakubovie (Sr., P | 11.1 ppg., 6.1 rpg., 1.6 bpg.)
- Taylor Pike (Sr., G | 7.1 ppg., 2.6 rpg.)
- Erin Murray (So., G | 5.2 ppg., 2.6 rpg.)

### Key Losses

- Kyanna Jones (G | honorable mention All-MIAC, 11.1 ppg., 6.1 rpg, 2.8 apg., 2.8 spg.)



### By the Numbers

- 4: Veronika Jakubovie posted four double-doubles last season
- 5: the Scots improved their record five years in a row between 2005-06 and 2009-10 under coach Ellen Thompson.
- 17: Macalester closed out last season on a frustrating 17-game losing streak and will try to close that out when this year's season gets started Nov. 15 against St. Scholastica.

### Did You Know?

- Head Coach Ellen Thompson played at St. Thomas and was the captain of the 1991 UST national championship team.

### Off the Court

- Senior post Veronika Jakubovie spent last summer in her native Slovakia, working with the military on various projects.

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



### Head coach

- Mike Durbin (28th season)

### A Year Ago

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

### In the 2013 Postseason

- MIAC Quarterfinals: CSB 79, Hamline 79 in St. Joseph
- MIAC Semifinals: Concordia 64, CSB 48 in Moorhead

### Top Returners

- Brianna Barrett (Wing, Sr. | All-MIAC ... third in the MIAC in scoring ... led the Blazers in points with 407 averaging 15.1 per game ... 3.0 rpg and 1.4 apg)
- Morgan Dale (Forward, Sr. | All-MIAC Honorable Mention ... 7.8 ppg, 7.3 rpg ... fourth in the MIAC in rebounds ... tallied 16 rebounds in a game five times)
- Mattie Lueck (Forward, So. | MIAC All-First Year Team ... 5.1 ppg, 3.1 rpg, 1.2 apg ... started the final 10 games of the season.)

### Key Losses

- Whitney Canton (Wins | All-MIAC ... second on the team in scoring at 11.6 ppg ... 4.5 rpg, 2.4 apg ... MIAC leader in three-point percentage and free throws made)
- Hannah Hylla (Post | 5.8 ppg, 3.2 rpg ... sixth on the team in scoring)
- Jamie Wollin (Wing | 5.9 ppg, 5.1 rpg ... fifth on the team in scoring and second in rebounding)

### By the Numbers

- 594: Career wins for head coach Mike Durbin heading into the season
- 81: Combined starts from last season on the returning roster this season, meaning the Blazers return 60% of their starts from a 20-win team.
- 69: Combined years of coaching experience on the Blazers' staff. Mike Durbin and Denny Johnson have 27 years each, while Steve Howe-Veenstra adds 13. Barry Peterson had been with the team for the past two seasons.

### Did You Know?

- The Blazer's 10-game winning streak last season was the longest in the MIAC all season, and during the run they beat everyone else in the conference, except Saint Mary's.

### Off the Court

- Last summer the Blazers spent nine days in Spain, getting extra practice time, while also playing games against local teams.

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



### Head coach

- Sean Pinkerton (Second season)

### A Year Ago

- 1-21 MIAC (12th place) | 2-23 Overall

### Top Returners

- Kristen Lee (G/F, Sr. | 9.9 ppg, 3.2 rpg, .368 pct., .323 3-pt pct. ranked 13th in MIAC)
- Sarah Manning (G/F, Jr. | 8.9 ppg, 3.6 rpg, .421 pct. ranked 18th in MIAC)
- Shauna Horsch (G/F, So. | 3.9 ppg, 3.1 rpg, .232 pct.)

### By the Numbers

- 12: This year the Wildcats have 12 new faces to the roster and nearly three-quarters of the team are first-years or sophomores.
- 48: The Wildcats' 48 rebounds vs. Bethel on Jan. 9 tied for second-most in a single game in program history.
- 829: Kristen Lee's 829 minutes (33.2 minutes per game) played last season was the second-most by any player in the MIAC who did not compete in post season play.

### Did You Know?

- Mary Neumann led the MIAC in 3-pt field goal percentage (.449) and tied the school record for most 3-pt field goals in a game (5-for-5 in 84-82 OT win over Macalester, Jan. 21).

### Off the Court

- The Wildcats volunteer monthly conducting basketball clinics with local youth at the Boys and Girls Club.

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## SAINT MARY'S | [Cardinals' women's basketball home page](#) |



### Head coach

- Mandy Pearson (Seventh season)

### A Year Ago

- 18-4 MIAC (T-2nd place) | 22-5 Overall

### In The Post-Season

- MIAC Tournament: vs. Gustavus (W, 76-69), vs. St. Thomas (69-60)

### Top Returners

- Courtney Euerle (6-1, Sr., P | 27 GP, 9.2 ppg, 102 FG, 180 Rebounds, 54 Assists, 40 Blocks | Honorable-mention All-MIAC, 2012-13; Two-Time MIAC All-Defensive Team, 2011-12, 2012-13)
- Bridget Pethke (5-5, So., G | 27 GP, 7.0 ppg, 59 FG, 84 Rebounds, 68 assists, 82 steals | MIAC All-First Year Team)
- Darcey Rice (5-7, Sr., G | 27 GP, 3.6 ppg, 30 FG, 26 3FG, 26 Assists)

### Key Losses

- Jessica Thone (27 GP, 12.4 ppg, 34 3FG, 106 Rebounds, 102 Assists, 56 steals | Two-time First-Team All-MIAC, 2011-12, 2012-13)
- Jamie Stefely (26 GP, 13.5 ppg, 150 FG, 170 Rebounds, 10 Blocks | Two-time First-Team All-MIAC, 2011-12, 2012-13; D3hoops.com Third-Team All-Region, 2012-13)
- Brittany Begrowicz (22 GP, 4.5 ppg, 38 FG, 55 Rebounds)

### By The Numbers

- 2: The Cardinals put an end to a pair of lengthy losing streaks in a span of back-to-back Wednesdays a year ago. SMU snapped an 11-game slide against St. Thomas with a 62-56 win over the then-nationally ranked Tommies on Jan. 23, then ended a 13-game losing streak against Gustavus with its Jan. 30, 65-58 victory.
- 3: Graduated senior Jessica Thone (Woodbury, Minn.) became SMU's third straight "Jess" to eclipse the 1,000 career-point barrier — following Jessica Weisbrod (1,054, 2004-08) and Jess Miller (1,203, 2007-11). Thone, who started every game during her four-year collegiate career — a span of 104 straight games — finished with 1,158 career points, ranking her No. 8 all time.
- 22: SMU put together winning streaks of five, nine and five games en route to recording its 22 wins in 2012-13 — the most wins under six-year head coach Mandy Pearson, and two wins shy of the school record 24 set in 1984-85 and equaled in 1985-86. The Cardinals' season-high nine-game win streak in January was the longest such streak since the Cardinals opened the 1985-86 season winning 19 straight games.

### Did You Know?

- The Cardinals had four players, and a coach, honored by the MIAC in 2012-13. Jessica Thone (Woodbury, Minn.) and Jamie Stefely (Lisle, Ill.) earned their second straight First-Team All-MIAC honors, while Courtney Euerle (Hutchinson, Minn.) landed a spot on the MIAC All-Defensive Team for the second consecutive year, and Bridget Pethke (Larsen, Wis.) was named to the MIAC All-First Year Team. SMU coach Mandy Pearson rounded out the post-season honors, being named the conference's Coach of the Year.

### Off The Court

- The Cardinals boasted two players, including returner Sara Schoenthaler on the MIAC All-Academic Team



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

### Head coach

- Dave Stromme (Seventh season)

### A Year Ago

- 10-12 MIAC (Seventh place) | 12-13 Overall

### Top Returners

- Nikki Frogner (F, Jr. | 11.6 points/game, 6.6 rebounds/game, 51.4 pct FG)
- Kim Cerjan (G, Soph. | MIAC All-First Year team, MIAC 6th player of the year, 11.4 ppg, 56-for-154 3FG, .364)
- Elise Raney (C, Sr. | 9.4 ppg, 7.2 rpg, 2.4 blocks/game)

### Key Losses

- Mackenzie Wolter (G | 3x All-MIAC, 12.2 points/game in 2012-13, 4.2 rpg, 1,223 career points, started all 101 games in career)



### By the Numbers

- 154: Senior Elise Raney's 154 career blocks are nearly 100 more than the next best on the Oles' career list. She broke the career school record in her first season. Raney has 594 career points and 444 career rebounds to go with her defensive numbers.
- 92: Lauren Gutierrez had 92 assists while starting at the point for the Oles as a first year in 2012-13. Her 3.7 assists/game ranked second in the MIAC.
- 56: Kim Cerjan's 56 3-pointers in 2012-13 missed the St. Olaf single-season record by one. She ranked second in the league in 3-pointers made and was seventh in 3-point percentage (.364).

### Did You Know?

- The St. Olaf senior class -- Maddie Ehrich, Brittany Webber and Elise Raney -- have a career record of 42-35 at St. Olaf. At seven games over .500, the group has the best mark for any St. Olaf class since the 1999 class (57-43).



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

### Head coach

- Ruth Sinn (Ninth season)

### A Year Ago

- 18-4 MIAC (T-2nd place) | 24-6 Overall

### In the 2012-13 Postseason

- In MIAC playoffs def. St. Mary's (69-60) and Concordia-Moorhead (58-50); In NCAA playoffs def. Calvin (64-62) and Cornell (53-52) and lost to Hope (71-61)

### Top Returners

- Taylor Young, SR, F, All-America/Career: 981 points, 340 rebounds, 180 assists, 79 FT%
- Maggie Weiers, JR, C/Missed 2012-13 with injury; Career: 60 games, 625 points, 376 rebounds, 78 FT%
- Anna Smith, JR, F, Career 62 games, 439 points, 276 rebounds, 83 assists

### Key Losses

- Kellie Ring, Grad, PG/All-Region; Career: 101 games, 545 points, 198 steals, 196 assists, 74% FT

### By the Numbers

- 75-15: Tommie senior class won-loss record to date, with two NCAA Sweet 16 trips
- 8: Number of returning Tommies who averaged 11 or more minutes a game last season.
- 39-4: UST home-court record at new Schoenecker Arena in the three years since its construction.

### Did You Know?

- The Tommies, ranked No. 5 in the D3hoops.com preseason poll, had only one senior last season. They also get center Maggie Weiers back after a medical hardship year, and added eight freshmen to their roster.

### Off the Court

- The Tommies have a 3.34 team grade-point average led by seven key players who have gpas of 3.45 or higher.