

# 2014-15 MIAC Women's Basketball Preview and Preseason Coaches' Poll

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## 2014-15 MIAC Women's Basketball Conference Preview

BLOOMINGTON, Minn. -- The Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (MIAC) has long been considered a college basketball hotbed, both regionally and nationally throughout NCAA Division III. However, the MIAC's reputation swelled even more a year ago, as three teams each earned a trip to the NCAA Tournament and, as the 2014-15 season is about to tip off, hopes are high yet again for the MIAC to continue to make its mark.

In 2013-14, it was a great year to be a Cardinal, as Saint Mary's captured the MIAC championship with a 20-2 conference record (24-4 overall), and SMU earned an at-large bid to the NCAA Division III Playoffs. Both St. Thomas (25-5, 19-3 MIAC) and Concordia (21-6, 19-3 MIAC) finished a game behind the Cardinals, and both also earned a trip to the tourney.

St. Thomas won the MIAC Women's Basketball Playoff title for the third season in a row - defeating both the Cobbers and Cardinals on its way to its postseason championship and NCAA automatic bid - and Concordia also received an at-large bid to give the MIAC a rare three teams in the national tournament field.

Bethel was also among the MIAC's elite last season, as the Royals won 20 games (20-7, 17-5 MIAC) and a spot in the MIAC Playoff semifinals with its talented, young roster. St. Olaf (14-12, 12-10 MIAC) and Gustavus (14-12, 11-11 MIAC) grabbed the final two MIAC Playoff spots, with Augsburg (12-13, 9-13 MIAC) and Saint Benedict (12-13, 9-13 MIAC) just outside the top six.

Hamline finished 7-18 overall and 6-16 in the MIAC a year ago, but returns the MIAC's leading scorer in Jordan Sammons. Macalester (5-20, 4-18 MIAC) edged Carleton (5-20, 3-19 MIAC) and St. Catherine (4-21, 3-19 MIAC) for the final spot in the top 10 to round out the MIAC standings.

With the 2014-15 season about to start, women's basketball in the MIAC will undergo a fairly significant change this season in regards to its schedule. In the past, the MIAC teams played a full double round-robin, with a home-and-home series against each of the league's teams for a 22-game schedule. With a max of 25 games allowed in NCAA Division III and several three-games-per-week needed to accommodate such a massive conference schedule, the MIAC's coaches and administrators have adjusted women's basketball to a new 18-game conference slate.

Now, each MIAC team is guaranteed to play the other 11 teams once, and seven of the 11 teams twice, which will be selected at random each season. The new schedule will certainly make the race for the MIAC title interesting. With so many teams typically in contention, now they'll have fewer games to state their case in the conference, but the scheduling flexibility should result in some exciting new nonconference and tournament opportunities for all 12 MIAC teams.

Between the new schedule, the MIAC's recent success on the national and regional stage and so much talent coming back, the 2014-15 women's basketball season can't start soon enough.

## TOMMIES ON TOP OF COACHES' POLL

Though St. Thomas finished second in the regular season to Saint Mary's, its third-straight MIAC Playoff title and NCAA appearance - paired with what Head Coach Ruth Sinn has coming back - certainly impressed the MIAC coaches, as UST was picked atop the 2014-15 MIAC Women's Basketball Preseason Coaches' Poll. The Tommies were tabbed as the favorite to win the title in unanimous fashion, as they received 121 points and 11-of-12 first-place votes (coaches could not rank their own team).

However, things appear to be equally crowded at the top in the eyes of the conference coaches, as the top four teams all received at least 99 points and the next three after St. Thomas were separated by just four total points. Defending champ Saint Mary's received the other first-place vote and 103 points to finish second in the poll, with Concordia (101) two points back in third, and Bethel (99) another two points behind the Cobbers in fourth. If poll results are any indication, the four-team fight atop the MIAC should be a sight to behold.

The coaches expect Saint Benedict (77 points) to return to the MIAC Playoffs as the Blazers were picked fifth, and Gustavus (71 points) was solidly in sixth place as the final MIAC Playoff team in the preseason poll. Hamline (50), St. Olaf (47) and Augsburg (41) were closely grouped in the next three spots, while Carleton (35) edged St. Catherine (34) for 10th and Macalester (13) rounded out the final spot in the rankings.

## CONFERENCE COACHING UPDATE

At the start of the 2013-14 season, there will be only one new face on the bench, as Macalester's Ellen Thompson resigned and Kelly Roysland was hired to replace her as the Scots' head coach. Roysland's name should be familiar to any Minnesota women's basketball fan,



as she both played and coached at the University of Minnesota before getting her first head coaching opportunity at Macalester this summer.

Saint Benedict's Mike Durbin, fresh off his 600th career win last season, is still the dean of the MIAC coaches as he enters his 29th season. Bethel's Jon Herbrechtsmeyer is starting season No. 13 and Concordia's Jessica Rahman is opening season No. 12 with the Cobbers. St. Thomas' Ruth Sinn is celebrating her milestone 10th season with the Tommies and both two-time reigning MIAC Coach-of-the-Year Mandy Pearson and Dave Stromme are opening their eighth seasons at Saint Mary's and St. Olaf, respectively.

Carleton's Cassie Kosiba and Hamline's Kerri Stockwell are celebrating their fifth year at their current posts. Bill McKee is opening season No. 4 at Augsburg and Gustavus' Laurie Kelly and St. Catherine's Sean Pinkerton are celebrating their third seasons in the MIAC.

### **WHO TO WATCH FOR**

St. Thomas graduated four-time All-MIAC forward Taylor Young and defensive stalwart Kelly Brandenburg, but Sinn welcomes a talented, balanced team back to St. Paul that has its eyes on returning to the top of the MIAC standings. Senior center Maggie Weiers and her 1,038 career points are back, as are fellow seniors Jenna Dockter (G) and Anna Smith (F) to give UST a strong, experienced nucleus.

Saint Mary's had to say goodbye to 2013-14 MIAC Player-of-the-Year Courtney Euerle, who remained in the MIAC by joining Roysland's coaching staff at Macalester. However, Pearson's squad should be strong again - especially in the backcourt, where All-MIAC and All-Defensive Team pick Bridget Pethke returns, as does talented senior Octavia Brown. Shelby Auseth was an Honorable Mention pick a year ago, and will be counted on to fill in some of Euerle's post production in her junior season.

Concordia also lost a star in the paint, as center Alexandra Lippert graduated, as did MIAC Sixth Player-of-the-Year Kelsey Walloch and guard Erika Jossart, but All-MIAC and All-Region guard Alley Fisher is back to lead the Cobbers in 2013-14. Junior forward Olivia Johnson and sophomore guard Greta Walsh are also back with expanded roles on the horizon after they earned All-Conference Honorable Mention and All-Rookie Team honors, respectively, a year ago.

Bethel's young team took a serious step forward last year, and the Royals should continue to grow up toward big things in 2014-15. Two-time All-Region and All-MIAC center Rachel Parupsky and All-MIAC forward Kalli Zimmerman team to give Bethel one of the league's best frontcourts, and guard Hannah Niewald also returns for a team hoping to make another leap this season.

Durbin enters his 29th season with 602 wins under his belt, and his team should add to that total this season despite the loss of All-MIAC forward Morgan Dale. All-MIAC Honorable Mention forward Mattie Lueck is back, as are sophomore point guard Annie Dittberner and senior wing Emily Lueck. Gustavus graduated a pair of All-MIAC players in Karina Schroeder and Julia Dysthe, but junior Lindsey Johnson is back in the post to try and lead the Gusties back to the postseason in 2014-15.

Hamline's Sammons returns as the MIAC's top scorer (21.3 ppg) and second-leading rebounder (9.7 rpg) and she leads a strong returning nucleus along with guards Makenzie Lee and Emily Behrman, as the Pipers hope to make a push for the postseason in 2013-14. St. Olaf said goodbye to a pair of All-MIAC players in Kim Cerjan and Elise Raney, but returns talented guards Afton Wolter and Lauren Guterrez along with forward Nikki Forgnier to help the Oles in their quest to return to the Playoffs.

Augsburg will try to replace All-MIAC guard Jilly Tichy after narrowly missing the MIAC Playoffs a year ago, and has high hopes thanks to guards Abbey Luger and Marie Fitzgerald and forward Jessica Lilliquist. Carleton lost one talented guard in Jenny Ramey, but has its other backcourt stalwart back thanks to the return of Skylar Tsutsui and her 16.2 ppg. Junior guard tandem Gabbie Stienstra and Michelle Arima are both back as well to give the Knights a potent backcourt.

St. Catherine showed improvement last season and hopes to keep moving in the right direction with the return of All-MIAC Honorable Mention selection LaShay Holt, who had a breakout rookie season. Guard Gabby Zehrer and versatile junior Shauna Horsch are also back for the Wildcats. Roysland's first Macalester team will be led by junior guard Erin Murray - and All-MIAC Honorable Mention pick a year ago - as well as senior forward Annie Drabot and junior guard Katelyn Kack.

### **CIRCLE THESE DATES**

Fortunately for MIAC basketball fans, action is right around the corner, as the season tips off Saturday with 10 of the league's 12 teams in action on opening day and the other two opening up on Tuesday. All 12 MIAC teams will open with nonconference action, leading up to the start of conference play.

MIAC play will officially begin on Wednesday, Dec. 3, with three full dates of conference play prior to the semester and Holiday break. Then, the action really heats up once the calendar flips to 2015. MIAC play resumes on Jan. 3 and will run through Saturday, Feb. 21. The MIAC Playoffs will follow on Feb. 24, 26 and 28, and the NCAA Tournament will begin the following weekend.

### **A CLOSER LOOK**

The rest of the 2014-15 MIAC Women's Basketball Preview contains complete results from the 2014-15 Preseason Coaches' Poll, MIAC Playoff details, helpful links and a preview for each team submitted by their sports information director. The 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 2014-15 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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## 2014-15 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.

### 2014-15 MIAC Women's Basketball Preseason Coaches' Poll

Rank	Institution	Total
1	St. Thomas (11)	121
2	Saint Mary's (1)	103
3	Concordia	101
4	Bethel	99
5	Saint Benedict	77
6	Gustavus	71
7	Hamline	50
8	St. Olaf	47
9	Augsburg	41
10	Carleton	35
11	St. Catherine	34
12	Macalester	13

## 2014-15 MIAC Women's Basketball Playoffs

The 2014-15 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. 24. 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. 26. The championship game is set for Saturday, Feb. 28, 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 2014-15 NCAA Division III Women's Basketball Tournament.

| [MIAC Women's Basketball Playoffs Web Sites](#) | [2013-14](#) | [2014-15](#) |

## MIAC Women's Basketball Links

| [Website](#) | [Standings](#) | [Schedule](#) | [Statistics](#) | [News](#) | [Recordbook](#) | [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 (Fourth season)

#### A Year Ago

- 9-13 MIAC (7th place) | 12-13 Overall

#### Top Returners

- Abbey Luger (Guard, Senior, | Averaged 7.4 ppg, 4.3 rpg, 40 steals, and six blocked shots during the 2013-14 season).
- Jessica Lillquist (Forward, Sophomore | Returning leading scorer, averaging 10.4 ppg, 4.9 rpg, 42 assists and 17 steals)
- Marie Fitzgerald (Guard, Sophomore | Averaged 7.1 ppg, a team-leading 4.9 rpg, 62 assists and 28 steals)

#### Key Losses

- Jill Tichy (Guard | All-MIAC, Averaged 14.5 ppg, 4.2 rpg, team-lead (48) 3-point field goals, team-lead 27 blocked shots)
- Carly Wolf (Guard | All-MIAC Sportsmanship team, scored 32 points and pulled down 13 rebounds)

#### By the Numbers

- 20.4: Augsburg returns its top four rebounders from a year ago -- Fitzgerald, Orth, Lillquist and Luger -- who combine to average 20.4 rebounds per game.
- 2: Augsburg has reached double digit wins in two of its last three seasons.

- 36.2: The average number of minutes per-game lost to the graduation of Jill Tichy.

#### Did You Know?

- Jessica Lillquist is a starting middle hitter on the Auggies MIAC Championship volleyball team, while Marie Fitzgerald is a starting forward on the Auggies MIAC Championship women's soccer team.

#### Off the Court

- Marie Fitzgerald earned Capital One Academic All-District honors in women's soccer this fall. Fitzgerald is a marketing major with a 3.81 grade-point average.



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

#### Head coach

- Jon Herbrechtsmeyer (13th season)

#### A Year Ago

- 17-5 MIAC (4th place) | 20-7 Overall

#### In the 2014 Postseason

- MIAC Quarterfinals: St. Olaf 55, Bethel 68
- MIAC Semifinals: Bethel 63, Saint Mary's 94

#### Top Returners

- Rachel Parupsky (C, Jr. | Two-time D3hoops.com All-Region, Two-time MIAC All-Conference, two-time MIAC All-Defensive Team / 14.3 PPG, 9.1 RPG, 3.1 BPG, FG%: 46.2)
- Kalli Zimmermann (F, So. | 2014 MIAC All-Conference, 2014 MIAC All-Defensive Team / 14.4 PPG, 6.9 RPG, 2.1 APG, 1.3 BPG, FG%: 49.0, FT%: 74.4)
- Hannah Niewald (G, Jr. | 8.4 PPG, 3.6 RPG, 2.0 APG, FG%: 39.1, 3PT %: 33.3, 23.0 Min./G)

#### Key Losses

- Katelyn Vavra (G | 6.7 PPG, 3.0 RPG, 1.4 APG, 41 3-Pointers made, FT %: 82.9, 24.0 Min./G)
- Micaella Petrich (G | 3.6 PPG, 2.8 PPG, 2.0 APG, 17.9 Min./G)

#### By the Numbers

- 20: The Royals ended their 2013-14 season with a 20-7 record overall, including a 1-1 mark in the postseason. The last time Bethel reached the 20-win plateau was in the 1995-96 season.
- 10: Dating back to their final game of the 2012-13 season, Bethel put together a 10-game win-streak on their home court last year. Thanks to the successful run on their own hardwood, the Royals finished the year 12-1 at the Robertson Center Gym.
- 9: At the conclusion of the 2013-14 season, Bethel finished No. 9 among all 431 teams in blocked shots per game. The Royals, who were No. 1 among all MIAC opponents, averaged 5.8 blocked shots per game as a team. Rachel Parupsky led the group—and the league—with 3.1 blocked shots per game.

#### Did You Know?

- Bethel University set a new NCAA record for largest turnaround in a conference season last year by winning 12 more games in loop play than the year before. The Royals, who were 5-17 the previous year, completed the 2013-14 MIAC campaign 17-5.

#### Off the Court

- Six members of the Bethel University women's basketball team were honored last spring as MIAC Academic All-Conference recipients. To achieve this recognition, players must participate in at least 50 percent of the team's competitions and possess a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher. As a team, the Royals have a collective GPA of 3.49.



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

#### Head coach

- Cassie Kosiba (Fifth season)

#### A Year Ago

- 3-19 MIAC (11th place) | 5-20 Overall

#### Top Returners

- Skylar Tsutsui (Guard, Sr. | MIAC All-Conference Honorable Mention, 16.2 ppg, 2.9 assists/game in 2013-14)
- Gabbi Stienstra (Guard, Jr. | 9.5 PPG, 3.9 rebounds/game)
- Michelle Arima (Guard, Jr. | 10.6 PPG)

#### Key Losses

- Jenny Ramey (Guard | MIAC All-Conference Honorable Mention; 12.4 ppg in 2013-14; four-year starter)
- Emma Purfeerst (Forward | 9.8 ppg, 7.7 rpg; four-year starter)

### By the Numbers

- 9: To say the Knights will be young is an understatement. Of the 13 players on the roster, 9 are rookies.
- 48: Carleton has just 4 returners from last season, and three of them —Tsutsui, Stienstra, and Arima—accounted for 48 percent of the team's scoring a year ago.
- 24.4: Carleton paced the MIAC and ranked 1th in the NCAA by attempting 24.4 three-pointers per game a year ago.

### Did You Know?

- Junior guard 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

- Jessica Huang '14 represented the Knights on the Academic All-Conference list last year.



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

### Head coach

- Jessica Rahman (12th season)

### A Year Ago

- 19-3 MIAC (T-2nd place) | 21-6 Overall

### In the 2014 Postseason

- Lost to St. Thomas 71-56 in the MIAC semifinals
- Lost to Wis.-Whitewater 79-72 in the first round of the NCAA Tournament

### Top Returners

- Alley Fisher (G, Sr. | 2013-14 D3hoops.com All-Region Third Team; has earned MIAC postseason honors for three years; led the team in scoring in MIAC games; led the MIAC in 3-point field goal percentage and free throw percentage)
- Olivia Johnson (F, Jr. | 2013-14 MIAC All-Conference Honorable Mention; was in the top 15 in the MIAC in all three rebounding categories)
- Greta Walsh (G, So. | 2013-14 MIAC All-First Year Team; second on the team in scoring in MIAC games; fourth in the MIAC in 3-point field goal percentage)

### Key Losses

- Alexandra Lippert (C | 4-time MIAC postseason award winner; first player in school history to score 1,000 career points, collect 500 career rebounds and block 200 shots)
- Kelsey Walloch (F | 2013-14 MIAC Sixth Player of the Year; led the team in field goal percentage)
- Erika Jossart (G | 2012-13 MIAC All-Defensive Team; third on the team in 3-point field goals and 3-point field goal percentage in 2013-14)

### By the Numbers

- 5: Of the 17 players on this year's Cobber roster, all but five are from Minnesota
- 21: Concordia has won at least 20 games in a season in 21 different seasons
- 53: Cobber senior guard Alley Fisher needs 53 more 3-point baskets to break the school record for 3-point field goals in a career. That record is currently held by Annie Keeley who had 174 3-point field goals from 2003-07.

### Did You Know?

- Concordia junior Olivia Johnson qualified for the NCAA National Outdoor Track and Field Meet in the shot put and javelin last spring. Johnson won the javelin competition at the MIAC Outdoor Championship Meet in 2014.



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

### Head coach

- Laurie Kelly (Third Season)

### A Year Ago

- 11-11 MIAC (Sixth Place) | 14-12 Overall

### In the 2014 Postseason

- The Gustavus women's basketball team fell to the University of St. Thomas by the score of 66-51 in the quarterfinals of the MIAC Playoffs.

### Top Returners

- Lindsey Johnson, Post (Jr., Edina, Minn.) | Played in all 28 games and averaged 24 minutes last season...Returns as the team's leading scorer from a year ago after averaging 8.6 points per game...Shot 39.3-percent (81-206) from the field and brought down a total of 119 rebounds (4.6 rpg)...Johnson averaged 14.6 points per game and shot 47.1-percent from the field over Gustavus's last five games of the 2013-14 season.

### Key Losses

- Karina Schroeder (Post) | Member of the 2013-14 All-Conference Team...2012-13 MIAC All-Rookie Team honoree...Led Gustavus in scoring

with 370 points for a 14.2 points per game average last season... Shot a team-high 53.3-percent (130-244) from the field and brought down a team-best 232 rebounds for an average of 8.9 rebounds per game.

- Julia Dysthe (Guard) | Member of the 2013-14 All-Conference Team...Four-year staple of Gustavus's back court...Ranked second on the team in scoring with 382 points for an average of 13.7 points per game....Averaged 31.7 minutes of court time and shot 42.1-percent (117-228) from the field, 30.8-percent (32-104) from three-point range, and 84.9-percent (62-73) at the free throw line.

#### By the Numbers

- 14: The number of years Gustavus has qualified for the MIAC Playoffs. Since the initiation of the six-team MIAC Tournament in the 2000-01 season, the Gustavus women's basketball team has qualified for the conference playoffs every year.
- 60: The percentage of last year's scoring lost due to the departures of Karina Schroeder, Julia Dyste '14, and Britta Rinke '14.
- 1: The number of non-Minnesota natives on this season's roster with Kelle Nett, a product of Spring Valley, Ill., being the only out-state member. Laurie Kelly's 2014-15 squad features two seniors, five juniors, seven sophomores, and seven frosh.

#### Did You Know?

- The Gustavus women's basketball team took an overseas trip to Italy and Switzerland in early June. Over the course of their 10-day excursion, the Gusties took take in the sights of Milan, Lake Como, Lugano in Switzerland, Venice, Montecatini, Florence, Lucca, Pisa, and Rome. The team also played a pair of friendship games against the ASD Basketball Costa women's team and the Usmate Club team in Como.



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

#### Head coach

- Kerri Stockwell (Fifth season)

#### A Year Ago

- 6-16 MIAC (9th place) | 7-18 Overall

#### Top Returners

- Jordan Sammons (Sr, G, 21.3 ppg last year led MIAC, 2nd in rebounds, 9.7, 1,000+ career points)
- Makenzie Lee (Sr, G, 25 GP last year, 2.6 ppg, .350 3-point shooting percentage)
- Emily Behrman (Jr, G, 25 GS last year, 5.1 ppg, 4.9 rpg)

#### Key Losses

- Je'Naya Brown (Sr, G, four year regular)

#### By the Numbers

- 3: seniors on the 2014-15 HU roster
- 5: number of new players on 2014-15 HU roster

#### Did You Know?

- Hamline played the first collegiate basketball game in 1895, losing 8-3 to Minnesota School of Agriculture.

#### Off the Court

- HU sophomore Jessica Beamon did an internship last summer at the prestigious Mayo Clinic.

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



#### Head coach

- Kelly Roysland (First season)

#### A Year Ago

- 4-18 MIAC (10th place) | 5-20 Overall

#### Top Returners

- Erin Murray (Guard, Junior | 2013-14 Honorable Mention All-Conference, Led team in scoring averaging 11.8 points/game last season, hit a team-high 40 3-pointers, ranked 13th in the MIAC in scoring)
- Annie Drabot (Forward, Senior | Captain, appeared in 23 games for the Scots last season)
- Katelyn Kack (Guard, Junior | Started in 11 games, appeared in all 25 last season, scored 82 points)

#### Key Losses

- Veronika Jakubovie (Center | Started every game in 2013-14, second in scoring averaging 8.3 points/game, team-high 7.8 rebounds/game)
- Emma Leyden (Guard | Started every game in 2013-14, averaged 5.2 point/game)
- Carmen Whitehead (Guard | Played significant minutes in all 25 games during 2013-14 season, averaged 5.6 point/game, shot 90% from free throw line)

#### By the Numbers

- 8: Macalester's 2014-15 roster is made up of thirteen players coming from eight different states (New York, Colorado, Minnesota, Montana, Wisconsin, California, Illinois, and Massachusetts).



- 3: Macalester's brand new coaching staff brings in playing experience from all three NCAA divisions within Minnesota. Head Coach Kelly Roysland played for and coached at the University of Minnesota prior to taking over at Mac. Assistant Coach Courtney Euerle is fresh off her playing career at St. Mary's University and volunteer Assistant Coach Jordi Gerking comes to Macalester from division II St. Cloud State University.
- 10: The Scots currently have 10 underclassmen on their 13-man roster and head into the 2014-15 season with just one senior, two juniors, four sophomores, and six first years.

#### Did You Know?

- Junior guard, Erin Murray participated in a tour of Brazil in late July with the USA Sports Tours and Events Division III women's basketball team. The team was made up of invited NCAA Division III basketball players from throughout the United States. Team members had all been recognized as All-American, All-Region and All-Conference.

#### Off the Court

- Sophomore guard, Grace Dickman is a member of the University of Minnesota's ROTC. In late October, Grace was presented an Outstanding Leadership award alongside being honored for her academic excellence at Macalester.

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



#### Head coach

- Mike Durbin (29th season)

#### A Year Ago

- 9-13 MIAC (8th place) | 12-13 Overall

#### Top Returners

- Mattie Lueck (F, Jr | All-MIAC Honorable Mention, second on team in scoring/rebounds last year)
- Annie Dittberner (PG, So | Fifth on team in scoring)
- Emily Lueck (W, Sr | Led team in three-point percentage)

#### Key Losses

- Morgan Dale (F | All-MIAC, fourth on team in scoring, led team/MIAC in rebounds (11.8) )
- Brianna Barrett (W | Led team in scoring, All-MIAC Honorable mention)
- Tish Alexander (W | Third on team in scoring)

#### By the Numbers

- 11: Number of new faces on the Blazers' 2014-15 roster
- .424: Emily Lueck's three-point percentage, second-best in MIAC last season
- 602: Number of wins head coach Mike Durbin has in his career at CSB

#### Did You Know?

- Blazer head coach Mike Durbin is 27th winningest active coach in the NCAA regardless of division

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



#### Head coach

- Sean Pinkerton (Third season)

#### A Year Ago

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

#### Top Returners

- LaShay Holt (G/F, So. | All-MIAC Honorable Mention, 2013; All-MIAC First-Year Team, 2013; 8th in MIAC scoring, 13.6 ppg; top 10 in MIAC for ppg, points, steals, steals per gam and 3-point fg pct.)
- Gabby Zehrner (G, So. | In eight games played, 14.1 ppg and .386 fg pct.)
- Shauna Horsch (G/F, Jr. | 5.0 ppg, 2.8 rpg )

#### Key Losses

- Kristen Lee (F | 6.9 ppg, .351 3-pt fg pct.; No. 14 all-time at St. Kate's for career points (706); No. 2 3-pt fg (128))

#### By the Numbers

- 339: LaShay Holt's 339 points as a rookie ranks 14th-most for a single season in program history.
- 33.4: As a team, the Wildcats shot 33.4 percent from 3-point range against MIAC opponents in 2013-14 which ranked fourth-best in the MIAC.
- 14: In a loss to St. Olaf, the Wildcats' set a school record for most 3-pointers in a game with 14-made for a 48.3 percentage from beyond the arc.

#### Did You Know?

- The Wildcats upset Saint Benedict in the conference opener on the road last November with a late-game 70-69 victory. This was the first time the Wildcats defeated the Blazers since Jan. 13, 2007.

### Off the Court

- Senior guard and nursing major Jenna Mistler is a member of the Navy's Nursing Candidate Program which is an officer commissioning program that helps provide undergraduate scholarships.



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

### Head coach

- Mandy Pearson (Eighth season)

### A Year Ago

- 20-2 MIAC (MIAC Champions) | 24-4 Overall

### In The Post-Season

- MIAC Tournament: vs. Bethel (W, 94-63), vs. St. Thomas (L, 71-58)
- NCAA Tournament: at UW-Oshkosh (L, 71-61)

### Top Returners

- Bridget Pethke (5-5, Jr., G | 28 GP, 10.6 ppg, 25 3FG, 128 assists, 73 steals | All-MIAC First Team, MIAC All-Defensive Team)
- Shelby Ausethe (5-9, Jr., F | 28 GP, 10.7 ppg, 4.9 rpg, 27 3FG | H-M All-MIAC)
- Octavia Brown (5-7, Sr., G | 25 GP, 5.2 ppg, 2.6 rpg, 20 assists, 16 steals)

### Key Losses

- Courtney Euerle (28 GP, 13.5 ppg, 7.7 rpg, 57 assists | MIAC Player of the Year, First-Team All-MIAC, 3-time MIAC All-Defensive Team, D3hoops.com H-M All-American, D3hoops.com All-West Region First Team)
- Darcey Rice (28 GP, 8.2 ppg, 2.5 rpg, 58 3FG | H-M All-MIAC)

### By The Numbers

- 24: With their 94-63 MIAC Tournament semifinal win over Bethel on Feb. 27, the Cardinals collected their 24th victory of the season, equaling the school record for wins in a season — originally set during the 1984-85 season (24-2) and matched a year later in 1985-86 (24-3).
- 32: Saint Mary's had a player score 20 or more points in a game 10 times last season — highlighted by Bridget Pethke's (New London, Wis.) career-high 32-point outburst against St. Olaf on Jan. 29. Pethke's 32-point performance — 17 points better than her previous career-high of 15 set against Saint Benedict on Jan. 25 — was just 10 points shy of the school record 42 points, set by Mary Schultz against St. Olaf during the 1985-86 season, and equaled by Tricia Rasmussen against UW-Oshkosh in 1992-93.
- 167: As a team, Saint Mary's boasted 167 3-pointers last season — ranking second-most in program history. Darcey Rice (Eagan, Minn.) knocked down a team-leading 58 3-pointers, which is the second-most in program history and just two shy of the school record 60, set by Ashley Luehmann ('05) in 2004-05.

### Did You Know?

- Cardinal coach Mandy Pearson was named the MIAC's Coach of the Year for the second straight season, becoming the first person in conference history to win back-to-back MIAC Player of the Year honors as a player and back-to-back Coach of the Year honors as a coach.

### Off The Court

- The Cardinals boasted two players — Bridget Pethke (New London, Wis.) and Sara Schoenthaler (White Bear Lake, Minn.) — on the 2013-14 MIAC All-Academic Team.



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

### Head coach

- Dave Stromme (Eighth Season)

### A Year Ago

- 12-10 MIAC (5th place) | 14-12 Overall

### In the 2014 Postseason

- MIAC 1st Rd - Lost 68-55 at Bethel

### Top Returners

- Afton Wolter (G, Jr. | 5.6 ppg, 44 3-pointers)
- Lauren Guterrez (G, Jr. | 51 career starts, 80 assists in 2013-14)
- Nikki Frogner (F, Sr. | 9.3 ppg over 54 career appearances)

### Key Losses

- Kim Cerjan (G | All-MIAC, 15.1 ppg, 5.8 rpg, 58 3-pointers)
- Elise Raney (C | All-MIAC, 11.8 ppg, 7.5 rpg, 3.0 blocks/game)
- Brittany Webber (G | Started all 26 games... 2.7 ppg, 3.0 rpg)

### By the Numbers



- 2: St. Olaf will return two players, Lauren Guterrez (26) and Nikki Frogner (3), who started games last year. Frogner averaged 13.0 ppg before a season-ending injury in the team's third game.



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

### **Head coach**

- Ruth Sinn (10th season)

### **A Year Ago**

- 19-3 MIAC (T-2nd place) | 25-5 Overall

### **In the 2014 Postseason**

- MIAC postseason results (3-0: def. Gustavus 66-51; def. Concordia 71-56; def. St. Mary's 71-58)
- NCAA postseason results (1-1; def. Loras 52-49; lost 87-78 to UW-Whitewater)

### **Top Returners**

- Jenna Dockter (SR, Guard | 446 points, 125 rebounds in 38 games over last two seasons)
- Anna Smith (SR, Forward | 523 points, 329 rebounds in 71 games over last three seasons)
- Maggie Weiers (SR, Center | HM All-America: Career: 1,038 points, 646 rebounds in 91 games; 13 career double-doubles)

### **Key Losses**

- Taylor Young (Forward, Grad, Career: 4X All-MIAC, 100-15 W-L in her era, 1,398 points, 106 blocks, 257 assists, 476 rebounds, 162 steals)
- Kelly Brandenburg (Guard, Grad: Career: 3X MIAC All-Defensive Team; 115 games, 795 points, 379 rebounds, 199 assists, 153 steals)

### **By the Numbers**

- 38-4: UST record when Weiers and Smith have all been healthy and playing together on career
- 15-3: Tommie postseason record last three seasons, with three MIAC playoff crowns, one NCAA Final Four and one NCAA Sweet 16
- 10: Players returning from UST's 12-player rotation of 2013-14

### **Did You Know?**

- The Tommies took an August 2014 exhibition trip to Spain and went 3-0 vs. local club teams

### **Off the Court**

- The Tommies' eight-player senior class has an impressive combined 3.51 grade-point average, led by Beth Wittry's 3.93.

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[MIAC Women's Basketball Home Page](#)