

2015-16 MIAC Women's Basketball Preview and Preseason Coaches' Poll

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

BLOOMINGTON, Minn. -- The 2014-15 Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (MIAC) women's basketball season was a year-long coronation of champion University of St. Thomas, which completed a perfect 25-0 regular season and advanced all the way to the NCAA Tournament quarterfinals. Now, as a new season prepares to tip off, the rest of the conference is eager to write their own remarkable story in 2015-16.

The Tommies were nearly unbeatable in 2014-15 behind a deep, talented senior class, and the team made it through the regular season, MIAC Playoffs and NCAA Sweet 16 without a loss. It's only blemish was an Elite Eight loss to eventual national champion Thomas More (Ky.) as Head Coach Ruth Sinn's team finished a remarkable 30-1 (18-0 MIAC). However, UST graduated much of its talent from that squad, leaving the door open for its competition to challenge for the conference title in 2015-16.

Leading that charge will be the Bethel Royals, which joined UST in the NCAA Tournament a year ago with a 21-7 overall record, and the Royals were 14-4 in conference play to finish as the runner-up to the Tommies in both the regular-season standings and the MIAC Playoffs. This season, both have high hopes once again evidenced by the preseason polls. St. Thomas is ranked 12th in the Division III Coaches' Poll and 18th by D3hoops.com, while Bethel is 22nd in the D3hoops.com poll and 23rd by the coaches.

There was a trio of tightly-contested teams behind the Tommies and Royals last year, as Saint Mary's (18-9), Gustavus (17-9) and Concordia (15-11) all finished 11-7 in conference play to share third place. All three return talented players in 2015-16 and hope to also contend for the MIAC title this time around. Augsburg (15-12) and Saint Benedict (12-13) were both 9-9 in the MIAC and tied for sixth, with the Auggies claiming the final Playoff spot thanks to tiebreaker criteria. It was Augsburg's first trip to the MIAC postseason, and the team advanced to the semifinals.

Hamline (12-13) and St. Olaf (10-15) both went 7-11 in conference play and finished just outside of Playoff contention last season. Carleton (8-17) was just a game behind the Pipers and Oles at 6-12 in the MIAC. St. Catherine had one of its best seasons in recent memory, improving to 10-15 overall and 5-13 in conference play in 2014-15, and Macalester was 3-22 (0-18 MIAC) in the first season for new Head Coach Kelly Roysland.

The MIAC basketball community received sad news in August when Augsburg Head Coach Bill McKee passed away following a battle with kidney cancer. McKee was the Auggies' head coach for four seasons, leading them to a school record in wins (15) and the team's first ever MIAC Playoff bid and victory in his final campaign. McKee starred at St. Thomas during his playing days, and he also spent 10 years as an assistant coach at his alma mater, spending nearly two decades playing and coaching in the MIAC. McKee will be missed, and remembered as a passionate coach and teacher of the game, a basketball scholar, and someone who cared greatly about his student-athletes.

Replacing McKee is a name familiar to MIAC women's basketball fans. Ted Riverso was hired in September as the new Auggies head coach, following a national championship and five MIAC titles in 15 years (1984-99) at St. Thomas, and a stint as an assistant at Division I Minnesota.

There will be one other new face on the MIAC sidelines this season, as Brent Pollari takes over at Saint Mary's. Pollari previously served as an assistant at Division I North Dakota and Division II Northern State and Minnesota State-Mankato. He replaces Mandy Pearson, who was hired as the head coach at Division II Minnesota-Duluth following a MIAC title and two Coach-of-the-Year awards with the Cardinals.

Last season marked the first year of a new 18-game conference schedule for MIAC women's basketball, and the conference enters its second year of the new unbalanced setup ready for another great season on the court. This year, there are several teams with legitimate title hopes, even more with designs on making the MIAC Playoffs. The talent level is extremely high with 10 All-Conference and nine Honorable Mention players all back on the court. Basically, the opening tip-off can't come soon enough.

BETHEL TOPS CROWDED COACHES' POLL

The talent at the top of the conference in 2015-16 is evidenced by the coaches' preseason rankings. Bethel received seven first-place votes and 116 total points to finish first and headline the 2015-16 MIAC Women's Basketball Preseason Coaches' Poll as the favorite to win the conference title, but the Royals weren't alone at the top. St. Thomas received five first-place votes and 112 points to finish a close second, and Gustavus also reached triple digits with 104 points to round out a strong top three.

Concordia (84 points) finished fourth, just six points ahead of Saint Benedict (78) as the Cobbers and Blazers both joined the top five. Augsburg (66) was also selected to make a return trip to the MIAC Playoffs in sixth place, with Saint Mary's (61) just barely on the outside looking in with a seventh-place finish in the poll. St. Olaf (42) clipped cross-town rival Carleton (41) by a single point for eighth, Hamline (37) held a three-point lead on St. Catherine (34) for the final spot in the top 10, and Macalester (17) rounded out the preseason rankings.



PLAYERS TO WATCH

Bethel enters as the favorite thanks to its accomplishments a year ago, and the team it has coming back. Head Coach Jon Herbrechtsmeyer hopes to guide the Royals back to the NCAA Tournament behind the return of star forward Rachel Parupsky, who is a three-time All-MIAC and two-time All-Region selection. Fellow All-Region forward Kalli Zimmerman also returns after earning All-Conference honors in her first two seasons, and guard Hannah Niewald is back to lead the Bethel backcourt as it aims for a shot at the MIAC title in 2015-16.

St. Thomas said goodbye to an unbelievably talented senior class a year ago, including All-Americans Jenna Dockter and Maggie Weiers, but Head Coach Ruth Sinn will try to re-load with plenty of young talent ready to step into the spotlight. Senior guard Katie Stone was an All-MIAC pick a year ago and will be counted on to lead the young Tommies, who hope junior center Kaitlyn Langer and sophomore guard Maddie Wolkow are ready to step into bigger roles this season.

Gustavus got to the MIAC Playoffs a year ago and hopes for even more success in 2015-16 with most of its key players back. Sophomore Mikayla Miller was one of the MIAC's breakout stars as a rookie and senior Lindsey Johnson also returns to give the Gusties an All-MIAC duo to lead the way. Concordia will have to replace a pair of All-MIAC graduates in Alley Fisher and Erin Januschka, but All-MIAC Honorable Mention forward Olivia Johnson is back to lead the way, with fellow seniors Hannah Jeske and Jenna Januschka counted on for more production in 2015-16.

Saint Benedict had a young team a year ago and hopes its core can continue its development and earn a trip to the Playoffs this season. Junior Annie Ditterner and sophomores Niki Fokken and Kate Banovetz are all back to fuel the Blazers' hopes. Augsburg reached new heights a year ago with its first MIAC Playoff bid, and hopes to continue that progress under Riverso, as the team plays to honor the late McKee. Senior All-MIAC forward Jessica Lillquist is back to lead the Auggies, along with senior guard Jenna Orth and sophomore frontcourt player Bridget Bednar.

Saint Mary's has been one of the MIAC's top teams in recent years, and it hopes to continue that success under Pollari. His first Cardinals' squad will be led by a pair of All-MIAC returners in senior guard Bridget Pethke and junior guard Emma Schaefer. St. Olaf enters the new season hoping to improve on last season's ninth-place finish and return to the MIAC Playoffs, and the Oles have most of their key talent back to lead that resurgence. Junior forward Betsey Daly was an All-MIAC pick last season, and the tema has veteran talent in the backcourt thanks to the return of senior guards Afton Wolter and Lauren Gutierrez.

Carleton's starting lineup will have a different look this year, as four-time All-MIAC guard Skylar Tsutsui has graduated. Fortunately, the Knights have plenty of returning experience in the backcourt in seniors Michele Arima and Gabbi Stienstra. Sophomore forward Nnenna Ezem also returns for Carleton this season. Hamline also has big shoes to fill, as Pipers' all-time leading scorer Jordan Sammons (1,741 points) graduated. Hamline will look to a pair of junior guards - Chelsey Bonsante and Chloe Graces - to lead the way in 2015-16 in Sammons' absence.

St. Catherine showed serious improvement last year with 10 wins, and the Wildcats hope to keep climbing up the standings in 2015-16. All-MIAC guard LaShay Holt is back after leading the MIAC in rebounding (9.9 per game) and Honorable Mention pick Audra Clark also returns for St. Kate's. Macalester brings back most of its key players in Head Coach Kelly Roysland's second season. Sophomore center Regan Fruh back after Honorable Mention and All-Rookie Team honors in her breakout first season, and guards Lauren Clamage and Erin Murray also return for the Scots.

CIRCLE THESE DATES

The good news for fans is that tip off for the 2015-16 MIAC women's basketball season isn't far off. The season officially tips off on Friday, Nov. 13, with Concordia leading things off that night. St. Thomas, Hamline, Augsburg, Saint Benedict and Carleton all tip off on Saturday, Nov. 14, and St. Olaf starts on Sunday, with the rest of the conference set to begin their season over the following week.

Teams will all open with nonconference action throughout November, with MIAC play set to start on Wednesday, Dec. 2. Most teams will play four MIAC games over December's first two weeks, before the conference season hits pause for the semester and Holiday break. MIAC play will be back to start the new year on Wednesday, Jan. 6, and will run through the final day of the regular season, Saturday, Feb. 20. The MIAC Playoffs will follow for the top six teams on Feb. 23, 25, and 27, and the winner will receive a bid to the NCAA Tournament.

A CLOSER LOOK

The rest of the 2015-16 MIAC Women's Basketball Preview contains complete results from the 2015-16 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 - will be an outstanding source for MIAC women's basketball news, schedules, scores, stats and more throughout the 2015-16 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](#), [Instagram](#) and [YouTube](#) pages for updates and interaction all season long.

2015-16 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.

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2015-16 MIAC Women's Basketball Preseason Coaches' Poll

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Institution</u>	<u>Total</u>
1	Bethel (7)	116
2	St. Thomas (5)	112
3	Gustavus	104
4	Concordia	84
5	Saint Benedict	78
6	Augsburg	66
7	Saint Mary's	61
8	St. Olaf	42
9	Carleton	41
10	Hamline	37
11	St. Catherine	34
12	Macalester	17

2016 MIAC Women's Basketball Playoffs

The 2016 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. 23. 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. 25. The championship game is set for Saturday, Feb. 27, 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 2016 NCAA Division III Women's Basketball Tournament.

| [2016 MIAC Women's Basketball Playoffs Home Page](#) |

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

- Ted Rivero (1st season)

A Year Ago

- 9-9 MIAC (t-6th place) | 15-12 overall

In the 2014 Postseason

- 56-50 win at Concordia-Moorhead in the MIAC quarterfinals
- 63-39 loss at St. Thomas in the MIAC semifinals

Top Returners

- Jessica Lillquist (F, Sr. | Returning leading scorer, averaged 12.2 points and 4.1 rebounds per-game in 2014-15. Earned All-MIAC honors)
- Jenna Orth (G, Sr. | Returning team-leader in rebounding and minutes played. Averaged 4.9 rebounds and 7.6 points per-game in 2014-15. Led the team and was second in the MIAC in steals (82). Named to the All-MIAC Sportsmanship team.)
- Bridget Bednar (C/F, So. | Averaged 7.9 points and 4.2 rebounds per-game in 2014-15. Led the team in blocked shots (13).)

Key Losses

- Abbey Luger (G | All-MIAC honoree. Led the team and conference in minutes played (35.0 min. per-game). Led the team in scoring (12.7 ppg), rebounding (5.6 rpg), assists (9.6 apg) and three-pointers made (48).)

By the Numbers

- 15: The number of wins achieved by the Augsburg women's basketball team in 2014-15, which marked a program record.
- 1: The 2014-15 season marked the first time the Auggie women's basketball team had qualified for the MIAC playoffs. The Auggies scored a first round upset at Concordia-Moorhead before falling to MIAC champion St. Thomas in the semifinals.
- 11.4 - Steals per-game average for the Auggies in 2014-15, which led the MIAC.

Did You Know?

- Augsburg coach Ted Rivero served as head coach at the University of St. Thomas for 15 seasons before coaching eight seasons as an assistant at the University of Minnesota. While at St. Thomas, Rivero led the Tommies to five MIAC Championships (1991, 1992, 1996, 1997, 1998), 11 top-two MIAC finishes, 14 straight appearances in the NCAA Division III national tournament, three trips to the NCAA Division III Final Four (1991, 1995, 1996) and the 1991 NCAA Division III national title.

Off the Court

- Augsburg coach Bill McKee passed away on Aug. 27, 2015 after a battle with kidney cancer. McKee turned around the Augsburg women's basketball program and led the team to new heights. McKee coached the Auggies for four seasons and finished with a career record of 50-52.



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

Head coach

- Jon Herbrechtsmeyer (14th season)

A Year Ago

- 14-4 MIAC (2nd place) | 21-7 Overall

In the 2014 Postseason

- 72-56 win over Saint Mary's in the MIAC Quarterfinals
- 51-65 loss at St. Thomas in the MIAC Championship
- 63-75 loss versus Hope College in the first round of the NCAA Playoffs

Top Returners

- Rachel Parupsky (F, Sr. | 2015 D3hoops.com Preseason All-American, Two-time D3hoops.com All-Region, Three-time All-MIAC, Three-time MIAC All-Defensive-Team, 15.1 PPG, 8.4 RPG, 4.5 BPG, .516 FG%, 27.3 Min./G)
- Kalli Zimmermann (F, Jr. | Two-time All-MIAC, 2015 D3hoops.com All-Region, 14.1 PPG, 7.0 RPG, 2.5 SPG, 2.3 APG, .490 FG%, 27.0 Min./G)
- Hannah Niewald (G, Sr. | 8.9 PPG, 4.6 RPG, 2.8 APG, 1.0 SPG, 26.2 Min./G)

Key Losses

- Lindy Parker (F | 20 Min./G, 3.4 PPG, 6.8 RPG, 25 BLK, 20 STL, .409 FG%)
- Kailey Eid (G | 11.1 Min./G, 2.1 PPG, 1.5 RPG, 0.9 APG, 31 STL)
- Lisa O'Connor (G | 5.4 Min./G, 1.4 PPG, 0.9 RPG, 0.5 APG)

By the Numbers

- 20: Bethel has reached the 20-win plateau in each of the past two seasons, which is the first time in program history that the Royals have won 20 or more games in back-to-back years. Prior to the 2013-14, BU's last 20-win season was in 1995.
- 22: The Royals were voted No. 22 in both the D3hoops.com and USAToday Preseason Top 25 Polls. Bethel's Top 25 ranking marks the first time in program history that the Royals were recognized on both Top 25 lists.
- 24: The Royals have posted a 24-2 record at the Robertson Center Gym over the past two seasons, resulting in a .923 winning percentage. This is the best home record in BU history over the course of two seasons.

Did You Know?

- Bethel finished No. 1 nationwide in blocked shots per game at the conclusion of the 2014-15 season. The Royals recorded an average of 9.0 blocks per game, with Rachel Parupsky leading the team at 4.5 blocks per game.

Off the Court

- Seven members of the Bethel University women's basketball team were honored with MIAC Academic All-Conference awards last spring for their success on the court and in the classroom. To be eligible, student-athletes have to maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher and play in over 50 percent of the games. Those honored were Shanni Moorse, Anna Munsterteiger, Hannah Niewald, Lisa O'Connor, Lindy Parker, Rachel Parupsky, and Kalli Zimmermann.



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

Head coach

- Cassie Kosiba (6th season)

A Year Ago

- 6-12 MIAC (10th Place) | 8-17 Overall

Top Returners

- Michele Arima (G, Sr. | 9.2 Points per Game, 2.1 Rebounds per game, Led the team in minutes played last season with 744 minutes)
- Gabbi Stienstra (G, Sr. | 9.0 Points per game, 3.3 Rebounds per Game)
- Nnenna Ezem (F, So. | 7.5 Points per Game, 6.7 Rebounds per Game, Led the Knights in field goal percentage at .481 last season)

Key Losses

- Skylar Tsutsui (G | 4x All-MIAC, 14.3 Points per game, 2.04 Steals per Game, 2.72 Assists per Game)

By the Numbers

- 3.5: The Knights averaged 3.5 blocks per game last season, good for fourth in the MIAC
- 6: The Knights welcome six newcomers to their team this season
- 6.8: The Knights averaged 6.8 steals per game last season

Did You Know?

- Head Coach Cassie Kosiba was a member of the first MIAC Championship team in Carleton women's basketball history.



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

Head coach

- Jessica Rahman (13th season)

A Year Ago

- 11-7 MIAC (5th place) | 15-11 Overall

In the 2014 Postseason

- Lost to Augsburg 56-50 in the MIAC quarterfinal

Top Returners

- Olivia Johnson (F, Sr. | Honorable Mention All-MIAC in 2015, averaged 9.5 PPG and 6.8 RPG)
- Hannah Jeske (G, Sr. | Averaged 4.6 PPG and 4.1 RPG in '15)
- Jenna Januschka (F, Sr. | Averaged 4.3 PPG and 3.5 RPG in '15)

Key Losses

- Alley Fisher (G | 2-time All-MIAC, D3hoops.com All-Region in 2015, averaged 15.3 PPG, 2.2 RPG in '15)
- Erin Januschka (F | All-MIAC in 2015, averaged 9.8 PPG and 5.1 RPG)

By the Numbers

- 25.6: The returning players for Concordia account for only 25.6 points of the team's 64.2 points per game average last season.
- 10: The Cobbers have 10 freshmen the varsity roster this season.

Did You Know?

- Head coach Jessica Rahman is the all-time winningest coach in Concordia women's basketball history with an overall record of 213-83.

Off the Court

- The Cobbers had eight student/athletes earn MIAC Academic All-Conference honors last season.



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

Head coach

- Laurie Kelly (Fourth season)

A Year Ago

- 11-7 MIAC (T-3rd place) | 17-9 Overall

In the 2014 Postseason

- Fell to Saint Mary's University 90-58 in MIAC Playoff Quarterfinals

Top Returners

- Mikayla Miller (So., Goodhue, Minn.) | First Gustavus rookie to earn a spot on the All-Conference team since the 1996-97 season ... started all 26 games as first-year ... led team in scoring 15 times ... within MIAC play, ranked third in points per game (16.2), second in minutes per game (34.7), and third in both assists (69) and steals (49) ... in Gustavus single-season history, ranks ninth in points (446), sixth in free throws (100), and third in steals (78)
- Lindsey Johnson (Sr., Edina, Minn.) | 2014-15 All-Conference honoree ... second on team in points per game (10) and field goal percentage (46.6) ... averaged 4.1 rebounds per game ... led team in three-point shooting percentage (41.4) ... shot 81.6-percent from free-throw line (fifth in MIAC)

Key Losses

- Maddie Ehrich (Eden Prairie, Minn.) | Averaged 26.6 minutes per game and started 23-of-26 games ... fourth on team in scoring with 7.8 points per game ... fifth on team in rebounding with three per game

By the Numbers

- 86.4: Gustavus returns 86.4 percent of its scoring from players that started at least one game last season
- 5: The Gusties bring in five first-years to this year's roster of 16 total players

Did You Know?

- The Gusties will travel to Puerto Rico over their winter break. The training trip will feature two games against Ramapo College and the Coast Guard Academy.

Off the Court

- The Gustavus women's basketball team participated in multiple community service efforts during the month of October, including assisting in a local haunted hayride and the Walk for School program.



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

Head coach

- Kerri Stockwell (6th season)

A Year Ago

- 7-11 MIAC (8th place) | 12-13 Overall

Top Returners

- Chelsey Bonsante (G, Jr., 8th in MIAC last year with 384 points)
- Chloe Graces (G, Jr., 12.99 ppg, 2nd in MIAC in Assists with 101)

Key Losses

- Jordan Sammons (G, Three-time All-MIAC, leading scorer in school history with 1,741 points)

By the Numbers

- 2: number on freshmen on this year's roster
- 5: number of wins the Pipers improved in 2014-15 from the year before
- 8: number of returnees from 2014-15 team

Did You Know?

- Head coach Kerri Stockwell and new assistant Anna Voltmer used to coach against each other assistants in the NSIC. Kerri was at Concordia when Anna was at MSU-Mankato

Off the Court

- Hamline was one of two women's BB programs selected to work the Special Olympics when they had a basketball day event held at Northwestern University.

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



Head coach

- Kelly Roysland (2nd season)

A Year Ago

- 0-18 MIAC (12th place) | 3-22 Overall

Top Returners

- Regan Fruh (Center, Sophomore | 2014-15 Honorable Mention and First-Year Team All-MIAC, Led the team in points per game (11.4), field goals (90) and blocked shots (14) last season.)
- Lauren Clamage (Guard, Junior | Second leading scorer for Macalester last year (8.2 ppg),)
- Erin Murray (Guard, Senior | Started all 25 games in 2014-15, led the team in assists (84), and steals (37). Was named Honorable Mention All-MIAC as a sophomore)

Key Losses

- Annie Drabot (Forward | Started in 18 games for the Scots last season, averaged 5.5 ppg and 4.8 rebounds/game.)

By the Numbers

- 8: This year's Macalester 14-player roster boasts players from eight different states.
- 33: Regan Fruh put up 33 points in the Scot's home contest versus St. Kate's last season. She shot 14 of 18 from the field and finished with 10 rebounds.

Did You Know?

- Junior Park Masterson interned in forensics with the Federal Bureau of Investigation during the summer of 2015 in San Diego, Calif.

Off the Court

- When she isn't playing basketball, junior guard Grace Dickman participates in ROTC at the University of Minnesota. Dickman has been involved in ROTC since the spring semester of her freshman year. She commits to physical training sessions Monday, Wednesday and Friday morning at 6:20 am, which are followed by classes on Monday and Wednesday, and an afternoon lab session. There are occasional weekend training sessions and volunteer opportunities, all with the focus of preparing the ROTC cadets to leave college ready to serve as an officer in the Army.

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



Head coach

- Mike Durbin (30th season)

A Year Ago

- 9-9 MIAC (T6th place) | 12-13 Overall

Top Returners

- Annie Dittberner (Wing, Jr | 7.8 ppg, 2.5 rpg, 1.4 apg)
- Niki Fokken (Post/Forward, So | All-MIAC First Year Team, 6.5 ppg, 6.5 rpg, 38 blocks)
- Kate Banovetz (Post, So | .550 fg percentage, 4.6 ppg, 4.3 rpg)

Key Losses

- Mattie Lueck (Forward | All-MIAC, 15.1 points, 7.0 rpg, 2.6 apg)
- Emily Lueck (Wing | 6.4 ppg, 3.0 rpg, 1.9 apg)
- Abby Miller (Wing | 7.8 ppg, 1.8 rpg)

By the Numbers

- 2: CSB has two sophomore transfers from NCAA Division II schools on its roster this season
- 40.7: Annie Dittberner finished second in the MIAC with a 40.7 three-point percentage as a sophomore
- 75: Coach Durbin and his staff have been at CSB for a combined total of 75 years. Both Durbin and assistant Denny Johnson have been at CSB for 30 years, and Steve Howe-Veenstra is in his 15th season as assistant coach.

Did You Know?

- Head coach Mike Durbin and sophomore Niki Fokken were in Brazil in July with the USA D3 Select team. Durbin coached the team and Fokken played and helped USA finish 2-2.

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



Head coach

- Sean Pinkerton (4th season)

A Year Ago

- 5-13 MIAC (11th place) | 10-15 Overall

Top Returners

- LaShay Holt (G, Jr. | All-MIAC, 2014-15; Honorable Mention, First-Year Team, 2013-14; led MIAC in rebounding (9.9), led team in scoring (15.8 ppg); school record for steals (79); eighth all-time at St. Kate's for points)
- Audra Clark (G, So. | Honorable Mention, First-Year Team, 2014-15; second among all MIAC first-years in scoring (12.9 ppg))
- Shauna Horsch (G/F, Sr. | 10.4 ppg, top 10 in MIAC per game for steals (2.4), free throw pct. (76.3) and -pt. pct. (35.6))

By the Numbers

- 247: LaShay Holt led the MIAC in rebounds (247) and rebounds per game (9.9) last season which is second-most all-time at St. Kate's for a single season.
- 62.1: Mari Lee led all MIAC players in shooting percentage last season with a school-record 62.1 percent from the field.
- 283: The Wildcats set a school record for steals in a season with 283.

Did You Know?

- The Wildcats recorded 10 wins – more than each of the previous three seasons combined. The team's 5-13 MIAC record is also the best since 2010-11.

Off the Court

- Shauna Horsch completed an independent economic study researching the effects of women in athletics and their future incomes.

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



Head Coach

- Brent Pollari (1st season)

A Year Ago

- 11-7 MIAC (3rd) | 18-9 Overall

In The Postseason

- MIAC Tournament: vs. Bethel (L, 72-56)

Top Returners

- Bridget Pethke (5-5, Sr., G | 12 GP, 9.3 ppg, 5.6 rpg, 10 3FG, 59 assists, 28 steals | Missed last 15 games with knee injury | 2013-14 All-

MIAC First Team, MIAC All-Defensive Team)

- Emma Schaefer (5-6, Jr., G | 9.6 ppg, 4.0 rpg, 37 3FG, 96 assists, 36 steals | 2014-15 All-MIAC First Team | 2014-15 H-M All-MIAC in soccer)

Key Losses

- Shelby Auseth (27 GP, 10.2 ppg, 4.9 rpg, 25 3FG | 2013-14, 20-14-15 H-M All-MIAC)
- Molly O'Toole (27 GP, 11.7 ppg, 5.3 rpg, 19 3FG, 12 blocks | 2014-15 All-MIAC First-Year Team, H-M All-MIAC)
- Octavia Brown (27 GP, 5.7 ppg, 3.0 rpg, 52 assists, 18 steals)

By The Numbers

- 4: The Cardinals made their fourth straight appearance in the MIAC Playoffs—and have won at least one playoff game during their current four-year run. The Cardinals reached the MIAC semifinals in 2011-12, 2012-13, and 2014-15, while reaching the conference playoff title game in 2013-14.
- 8: The Cardinals boasted a player scoring 20 or more points eight times last season. Molly O'Toole (Plymouth, Minn.) eclipsed the 20-point barrier four times, Shelby Auseth (Wanamingo, Minn.) did it twice, and Emma Schaefer (Falcon Heights, Minn.) and Octavia Brown (Broadview, Ill.) once each.
- 12: Saint Mary's knocked down a season-high 12 3-pointers against North Park on Dec. 30. The Cardinals' 12 treys were the most since draining 12 3s against Carleton on Jan. 4, 2010

Did You Know?

- The Cardinals' 64-56 win over Carleton on Feb. 18 was former coach Mandy Pearson's 100th career coaching win. Pearson left Saint Mary's for the head coaching position at Division III Minnesota-Duluth in the offseason after winning one MIAC title and two MIAC Coach-of-the-Year awards.

Off The Court

- Emma Schaefer (Roseville, Minn.) and Sara Schoenthaler (White Bear Lake, Minn.) represented the Cardinals on the 2014-15 MIAC All-Academic Team.



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

Head coach

- Dave Stromme (9th Season)

A Year Ago

- 7-11 (9th), 10-15 Overall

Top Returners

- Betsey Daly (F, Jr. | All-MIAC... Led team in scoring at 11.4 ppg, rebounding at 8.2/rpg while shooting 46.5 percent from the field.)
- Afton Wolter (G, Sr. | Averaged a career-best 9.1 points/game in 2014-15... Made school-record 63 3-pointers.)
- Lauren Gutierrez (G, Sr. | Four-year starter... Her 238 career assists rank fourth all-time at St. Olaf.)

Key Losses

- Nikki Frogner (F | 9.9 points/game in 2014-15... 550 career points in 61 career games.)



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

Head coach

- Ruth Sinn (11th season)

A Year Ago

- 18-0 MIAC (MIAC Champions) | 30-1 Overall

In the 2015 Postseason

- MIAC postseason results (2-0, 1st place; def. Augsburg 63-39, def. Bethel 65-51)
- NCAA postseason results (3-1, Elite 8; def. Minn.-Morris 70-31, def. Luther (Iowa) 60-57, def. Hope (Mich.) 55-47, lost 75-58 to Thomas More (Ky.)

Top Returners

- Katie Stone (Guard, SR; 14-15: All-MIAC, 86% FT, 8.6 ppg; 3-year career: 72 games, 582 points)
- Kaitlyn Langer (Center, JR; 14-15: 29 games, 3.6 ppg, 2.2 rpg; 2-year Career: 48 games, 144 points)
- Maddie Wolkow (Guard, SO; 14-15: 30 games, 22-of-50 from 3-point range, 85 points)

Key Losses

- Jenna Dockter (Guard, Grad, 2015 MIAC Player of the Year, 2X All-MIAC, D3hoops.com first team All-America; 900 points, 207 rebounds in 82 career games)
- Maggie Weiers (Center, Grad, 3X All-MIAC, D3hoops.com second team All-America, 2X HM All-America; Career: 1,406 points, 888 rebounds in 120 games)
- Anna Smith (Forward, Grad; All-MIAC, Career: 807 points, 536 rebounds in 102 games)

By the Numbers

- 2/12: Number of seniors (two) and freshmen (12) on UST's 21-player roster
- 6: Consecutive seasons the Toms have claimed the MIAC regular-season or playoff crowns
- 22: NCAA playoff trips for Tommie women's basketball, all in the last 32 seasons

Did You Know?

- The Toms are 114-14 against conference opponents since January 2010, including a 33-1 mark since mid-February 2014.

Off the Court

- St. Thomas had six players named Academic All-MIAC last winter with cumulative gpas of 3.50 or better.

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