



2006 MIAC WOMEN'S GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP PREVIEW

October 7 - 9, 2006

Bunker Hills Golf Course, Coon Rapids

Host: Augsburg College

The 2006 MIAC Women's Golf Championship will have a different look and feel to it compared to year's past. This season the MIAC Championship moves to a three-day, 54-hole tournament over Saturday, Sunday, and Monday. Also new this season is that the MIAC team champion will earn an automatic bid to the 2007 NCAA Championship. 2006 will also mark the first time the MIAC Women's Championship is played at Bunker Hills Golf Course in Coon Rapids. Bunker Hills is the long-time host of the MIAC Men's Championship. The differences will not only be in the administration and location of the championship but there will also be numerous changes in the coaches and competitors. Three new coaches enter their first MIAC Championship; Patrick Michaud - Saint Benedict, Shawn Stimmel - Saint Mary's, and Luke Benoit - St. Olaf. New faces will also fill the leader board as eight of the top ten finishers from last year's championship have graduated leaving the door open for a new group of golfers. Saint Mary's Caty Beel and St. Thomas' Holly Noble are the only returning top ten finishers from 2005.

St. Thomas and Gustavus once again enter the MIAC Championship as the teams to beat. St. Thomas has won the previous five MIAC titles and will be led by juniors Holly Noble and Katie Potts and freshman Laura Heck. Gustavus enters the Championship with aspirations of knocking the Tommies off their throne; the Gusties will feature senior Breanne Staples, junior Rachelle Roberg, and sophomore Kimbra Kosak. Saint Benedict and Saint Mary's will also contend for a chance to knock St. Thomas out of the top spot. Saint Benedict has finished in the top three each of the last three years, but the Blazers enter 2006 with a new coach in Patrick Michaud and no juniors and seniors on their roster. Saint Mary's also will have a new coach as Shawn Stimmel takes over a Cardinal team led by senior Caty Beel. Concordia will look to move up from their fifth place finish of a year ago, the Cobbers are led by sophomore standout Afton Pender. After a strong fall, Carleton may be ready to make a move up in the MIAC standings, the Knights are anchored by All-Region senior Kassie Wells. Much like Carleton, Macalester may contend for a spot in the upper level of the conference in 2006. The Scots feature a nice mix up solid upperclassmen and talented underclassmen. Under the direction of first-year coach Luke Benoit, St. Olaf will look to sophomore Kate Solheim to pace the Oles. Second-year head coach Laura Patrick will lead Augsburg again this season. Augsburg will be the host institution for the championship.

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Augsburg College

Head Coach:	Laura Patrick (2nd season)
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2005 Finish:	9th at MIAC Championships
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Key Returns:	Marisa Navarro (Sr., Rochester, Minn./Century) Laura Henry (Sr., Hugo, Minn./Forest Lake) Ellen Watters (So., Lindstrom, Minn.)
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Season Preview:	Augsburg College enters the 2006 MIAC championships with a full roster and hopes of improving in the league standings for second-year coach Laura Patrick, who assumed solo head-coach duties this season. Marisa Navarro (Sr., Rochester, Minn./Century HS) has been Augsburg's top golfer throughout her career, and enters this year's championships with a chance to earn All-MIAC honors for the first time. She finished just two strokes from earning all-conference honors at last season's meet, and carries an 89.75 season stroke average into the conference meet. Her career stroke average is 86.10. Laura Henry (Sr., Hugo, Minn./Forest Lake HS) has shown improvement during her three seasons at Augsburg (she played her first season at Concordia-Moorhead), and enters the conference meet with a team-best 88.75 stroke average. Her career stroke average is 92.76, but she has improved her season averages nearly seven strokes from her first season at Concordia to this year at Augsburg. Ellen Watters (So., Lindstrom, Minn.) has dropped her stroke average nearly 11 points from her first season to this fall (114.25), and aims for continued improvement in her second conference meet. Newcomers Taylor Norman (Fr., Eagan, Minn.) and Sarah Thiry (Fr., Stanchfield, Minn./Cambridge-Isanti HS) will be competing in their first conference meet this season.
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Carleton College		
Head Coach:	Eric Sieger (6th season)	
2005 Finish:	6th at MIAC Championships	
Key Returners:	Kassie Wells (Sr./Rochester, Minn./Century) 2005-06 NGCA All-Region Sophie Snyder (Sr./St. Paul, Minn./Cretin-Durham Hall) Sarah Inebriates (Jr./Spokane, Wash./Lewis & Clark)	

Season Preview:	Carleton, participating in the MIAC Championships for the eighth time as a full team, heads into the conference championship with a solid chance for its best finish ever. The Knights, fifth in 2003 and 2004, have posted the MIAC's third-best team average this fall at 349.6 and have consistently been the number three team behind national powers Gustavus Adolphus and St. Thomas. Senior captain Kassie Wells, a National Golf Coaches Association (NGCA) all-region player last season, will lead the Knights. Wells will look to break out of disappointing MIAC Championships finishes the last two seasons in her final conference championships appearance. She has posted the league's fourth-best stroke average this fall, including being the top MIAC finish at the Cobber Open and the second-best league placer at the Concordia Invitational. Wells has been in the top 10 after the first round of each of the last two conference tournaments and will look to close the deal this season. Sophomore Katrina Wood (Duluth, Minn./Marshall School), a transfer from Bucknell University, has been a pleasant surprise for head coach Eric Sieger. Wood has notched a stroke average of 83.40, eighth-best in the conference, and notched a top-10 finish at the Luther Women's Invite and top-20 finishes at the Concordia Invitational and Division III Midwest Classic. Senior Sophie Snyder, who is having a career season and ranks in the conference's top 20 with an 87.3 scoring average, joins her in the middle of the Carleton line-up. Junior Sarah Ingebritsen will be competing in the conference tourney for the first time and is coming off one of her best rounds, as she fired an 85 at the Luther Invite to finish in the top 25 against one of the region's toughest fields. The Knights figure to engage in a battle for the third slot in the team race with St. Mary's, St. Olaf and Macalester. The Knights have lost to only one other MIAC school other than St. Thomas and Gustavus during the fall season, going 17-1 in head-to-head results against the other six conference teams.
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Concordia College		
Head Coach:	John Whartnaby (2nd season)	
2005 Finish:	5th at MIAC Championships	
Key Returners:	Afton Pender (So., Cohasset, Minn./Grand Rapids) Tied for 11th place at the 2005 MIAC Meet, one shot away from all-conference; leads team in stroke average in 2006. Erin Douglass (Jr., Northfield, Minn.) Third on the team at the 2005 MIAC Meet; second on the team in stroke average in 2006.	

Season Preview:	When the 2006 MIAC Women's Golf Championship Meet rolls around, Concordia will be hoping that it will be the quality of experience during the regular-season rather than the quantity. The Cobbers will enter the conference meet having played in only three tournaments in 2006, but all will have tested every part of the young Cobbers' games. Concordia opened the season by playing in the annual Cobber tournament at Wildflower Golf Course in Detroit Lakes, Minn. After that, they played in the Midwest DIII Golf Classic at Troy Burne Golf Course in Hudson, Wis. They finished the regular season by competing at King's Walk Golf Course in Grand Forks, N.D. All three courses will have thrown every type of shot and condition that Concordia will face at the MIAC Meet at Bunker Hills Golf Course in Coon Rapids, Minn. Leading Concordia into the championship grind will be sophomore Afton Pender (Cohasset, Minn./Grand Rapids HS). Pender has posted the best numbers in all three tournaments in 2006. She is coming off a 2005 campaign that saw her finish one stroke away from earning all-conference honors as a freshman. She currently leads the Cobbers in stroke average in 2006. The only other Concordia golfer with MIAC Tournament experience this year will be junior Erin Douglass (Northfield, Minn.). Douglass was third on the team at last year's MIAC meet and is second on the team in stroke average in 2006.
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Gustavus Adolphus College		
Head Coach:	Scott Moe (5th season)	
2005 Finish:	2nd at MIAC Championships	
Key Returners:	Breanne Staples (Sr.) Rachelle Roberg (Jr.) Kimbra Kosak (So.)	

Season Preview:	Last season, the Gustavus Adolphus women's golf team posted its best finish ever at the NCAA Division III Women's Golf Championships when it edged DePauw University by a stroke for second place. With half of last year's top six lost to graduation, fifth-year Gustie head women's golf coach Scott Moe knows his team will be hard-pressed to repeat that feat, but feels that Gustavus is still in a position to climb to the top of the mountain in the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference and capture the program's first MIAC Women's Golf Championship. The Gusties have reached the summit on a number of occasions, only to see someone else's flag stuck in the ground. Gustavus has finished runner-up to St. Thomas at the annual league get-together four times in the past five seasons, including three times by a handful of strokes (2001-2 strokes, 2004-1 stroke, 2005-3 strokes). Gustavus has not finished out of the top-three at the MIAC meet since 1992, when the Gusties did not field a complete team. Leading the way for the Gusties through three meets is junior Rachel Roberg (Rice Lake, Wis.). Roberg, who sports a 78.3 stroke average, has finished in the top ten of all four events so far this fall, including tying for medalist honors at UW-Eau Claire, finishing second at the Cobber Invitational, and third at the Division III Midwest Classic. Roberg is also the highest placing Gustavus player returning from last spring's NCAA Championships squad. Roberg tied for 13th place in the field of 60 golfers. Also back for the Gusties is 2006 Division III Freshman of the Year Kimbra Kosak. Now a sophomore, Kosak participated in the USA China Friendship Cup in July. Her 83.0 stroke average ranks fourth on the team. Three-time letterwinner Breanne Staples (Windom, Minn.), the team's lone senior, has an 81.3 stroke average and has a pair of top five finishes, including a win at the Division III Midwest Classic on Sept. 24. Sophomore Lauren Runsvold (Fargo, N.D.) and first-year Kali Griggs (Burnsville, Minn.) round out the Gustavus lineup. Griggs has played solidly in her first four collegiate tournaments and is currently third on the team with an 82.8 stroke average and one top five finish (fourth, UW-Eau Claire). Runsvold has an 86.7 stroke average through four tournaments.
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Macalester College		
Head Coach:	Martha Nause (5th season)	
2005 Finish:	7th at MIAC Championships	
Key Returners:	Jordan Matheson (So., Vancouver, B.C.) Anna Gizzi (Sr., West Chicago, Ill.) Kylie Thompson (Sr., Seattle, Wash.)	
Season Preview:	Led by Kara Leon (Fy., Quito, Ecuador) and Jordan Matheson (So., Vancouver, B.C.), Macalester is looking to move up from last year's seventh-place MIAC finish. The Scots are enjoying their best fall campaign in years and are building the foundation for a bright future behind young players Leon and Matheson. Leon placed fourth out of 75 players a couple weeks ago at the Division III Midwest Classic with an 83 on the tough Troy Burne course and posted a two-round 166 to lead the team earlier in the season at the Concordia Invitational. Matheson earned all-state honors last spring at the Minnesota Collegiate Tournament when she finished with a 159 tally and was sixth best among Division III players. Anna Gizzi (Sr., West Chicago, Ill.) has been solid all fall and finished in the top half of the field at the Midwest Classic. Kylie Thomson (Sr., Seattle, Wash.) is also a key player in the Macalester lineup.	

College of Saint Benedict		
Head Coach:	Patrick Michaud (1st season)	
2005 Finish:	3rd at MIAC Championships	
Key Returners:	Ann Dressen (So.) Leigh Bartholomew (So.) CJ Swanlund (So.) Chelsea Pettit (So.)	
Season Preview:	The Blazer Golf team is looking to capitalize on their impressive 2005-06 season. The Blazers earned a third place MIAC Championship meet finish, close behind St. Thomas and Gustavus. However, this time around the Blazers must prepare for a new season without Megan Sand and Kaley Kosak. Sand and Kosak, 2006 graduates, topped off their collegiate athletic careers with All-Conference honors. Although losing Sand and Kosak may have a significant impact on the team, there are several promising returners and newcomers looking to fill their spots as top golfers on the team. Returning to the team for their second year are sophomores Ann Dressen, Leigh Bartholomew, CJ Swanlund, Chelsea Pettit and Emily Olson. These young veterans will provide the team with leadership and poise, as well as a good golf game. Dressen led the first-year class in 2006, finishing consistently behind Sand and Kosak. Dressen peaked with a 20th place finish at the Carleton Invitational in September. A strong season is in store for her this year. Bartholomew, Swanlund, Petit and Olson are expecting to have promising seasons as well. Olson will not participate this fall due to injury, but plans to compete in the spring season. Four incoming first-year students will provide depth for the Blazer squad. Callie Harp and April Dammann will both bring Minnesota State Tournament experience to the team. Harp tied for 59th place in the Class AA tournament in 2006, while Dammann tied for 11th in Class A. Also adding to the team will be Sami Noble, Megan Kack and Teresa Walch, all coming from accomplished high school golf programs.	

Saint Mary's University			
Head Coach:	Shawn Stimmel (1st season)		
2005 Finish:	4th at MIAC Championships		
Key Returners:	Kate O'Connor (Jr., Orland Park, Ill.) Caty Beel (Sr., Tucson, Ariz.)		
Season Preview:	The Cardinals have been in record-setting mode all season, already boasting the school's lowest 18-hole and 36-hole scores. Led by Kate O'Connor — who enters the MIAC Championships averaging 85.7 strokes — first-year coach Shawn Stimmel feels his Cardinals have a shot at making a run at the conference's top teams. "We're much deeper than SMU teams of the past," Stimmel said. "Hopefully that depth with help us move up a few spots in the (conference). Senior Caty Beel, an All-MIAC performer a year ago when she shot 84-87—171 to place eighth overall, is also playing well again this season, as is freshman Katelyn Rizzi (Austin, Minn.), who enters her first-ever MIAC Championship with an 87.7 stroke average.		

St. Olaf College			
Head Coach:	Luke Benoit (1st season)		
2005 Finish:	8th at MIAC Championships		
Key Returners:	Kate Solheim (So., Waconia, Minn.) Amy Springer (Jr., Barron, Wis.)		
Season Preview:	The St. Olaf women's golf team hopes to ride their improvement this fall at the MIAC Championships. Kate Solheim has led the Oles in scoring in three the their four events this fall. Solheim was fourth at the Luther Invitational on Sept. 16 with a season-best 80 (+8). Amy Springer was St. Olaf's top scorer at last year's MIAC's. Springer, Emily Segar, Emily Knutson, Alyssa Zuehl and first year Lizzy Zahn will give their best to improve on last year's eighth place finish.		

University of St. Thomas		
Head Coach:	Sara Evens (2nd season)	
2005 Finish:	1st at MIAC Championships	
Key Returners:	Holly Noble (Jr.) 2006-06: tie 8th MIAC; 2004-05: MIAC Rookie of the Year, 24th MIAC, 29th NCAA Katie Potts (Jr.) 2005-06: tie 16th MIAC	
Season Preview:	Sara Evens was hired in spring 2005 to replace Cathy Lombritto as head coach and has continued UST's golf excellence. St. Thomas has posted top-three finishes in 24 of its last 28 tournaments since fall 2004. In two other tournaments they finished in the top two of the D-III entrants, and they also had a ninth-place NCAA Championships finish in May 2005. In the last seven conference meets, the Tommies have had 21 all-conference golfers and won medalist honors four times. St. Thomas won its fifth consecutive MIAC Women's Golf Championship in fall 2005 and was ranked in the top five nationally most of last school year. But the 2006 Tommies are playing without three key pieces of the recent title teams. The Tommies graduated 4X All-MIAC Maureen Hardwick and All-MIAC player Kerry Shea, and All-MIAC player Tricia Nelson is away on study abroad this fall. They've beaten tournament favorite Gustavus just once in head-to-head play in the 2006 calendar year -- at the one-day Cobber Open in September -- and will need a strong effort to continue the program's title streak. UST's most consistent player this fall has been freshman Laura Heck, who has an 81.9 stroke average through seven rounds. All-MIAC player Holly Noble leads the returners. Noble was the 2004-05 conference Rookie of the Year and tied for eighth last fall at the MIAC meet. She had the Toms' best showing at the May 2005 NCAA meet. This fall, Noble shot 77 in the one-day Cobber Open and has an 83.3 stroke average in seven fall tournaments. Other returners include juniors Laura Klatt and Katie Potts and senior Megan Hanson. Klatt shot a 77 at the Luther Invite in mid-September to win medalist honors and has an 83.6 stroke average through seven fall tournaments. Potts, who tied for 16th at last fall's MIAC meet, is averaging 86.8 this fall. Hanson, who tied for 38th at last year's MIAC Championships, is averaging 84.0 strokes in seven rounds this fall.	

2005 MIAC Women's Golf Championships

Oct. 8-9, 2005

StoneRidge G.C. (Stillwater)

Championships Website

2005 Team Results

1. St. Thomas	329-440=669
2. Gustavus	345-327=672
3. St. Benedict	355-361=716
4. St. Mary's	362-359=721
5. Concordia	362-373=735
6. Carleton	380-376=756
7. Macalester	398-372=770
8. St. Olaf	406-382=788
9. Augsburg	Incomplete

2005 All-Conference (Top 10 All-Conf.)

1. Maureen Hardwick	UST	76-85=161
2. Kelli Groff	GAC	86-77=163
2. Erin Schliep	GAC	82-81=163
4. Kaley Kosak	CSB	84-83=167
5. Kerry Shea	UST	87-81=168
6. Andrea Hanke	SMU	84-85=169
7. Megan Sand	CSB	84-86=170
8. Caty Beel	SMU	84-87=171
8. Holly Noble	UST	81-90=171
10. Alana Reetz	GAC	84-90=174

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2004 - [Championship Results](#)

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