

2003 MIAC Swimming & Diving Championships Preview

Meet Preview:

Who will be the 75th men's team champion in MIAC swimming and diving? Last year's winner, Gustavus, is expected to battle St. Olaf, St. John's and Carleton when the athletes assemble Thursday at the University of Minnesota Aquatic Center for the first of three days of competition.

The women will crown their 22nd conference team champion, and 2002 champ Gustavus will try to be a repeat winner. Gustavus became the fourth different school in the last five years to win the title, but Carleton and St. Olaf appear capable of pushing the Gusties in 2003.

Carleton returns the 2001-02 MIAC Swimmers of the Year in junior national champ Marie Marsman (five firsts at 2002 MIAC meet) and senior Jason Brown (two firsts).

Men's Outlook

Gustavus returns 14 swimmers as it seeks its third championship in the last four years. Coach Jon Carlson's squad enters the meet with top-seed times in six events -- Will Sutor in the 200 IM and 100 butterfly, Mike Maynard in the 100 and 200 backstrokes, Scott Stephens in the 200 butterfly, and Chris Kramer in the 500 freestyle. In addition, the Gusties have the top seed times in both the 200 and 400 IM relays. Depth is what could put Gustavus over the top. The Gusties head into the meet with three of the top eight seed times in 11 of the 20 events. Coach Carlson also hopes that a successful taper will result in the Gusties qualifying at least seven swimmers for the NCAA Championships.

St. John's has claimed four consecutive third-place finishes at this conference event. Coach Bill Saxton's Johnnies are led by senior Jim Arnold, freshman Luke Prokop and senior Luke Vestrum, who had a hand in three victories last year. Vestrum has won the last three 200-yard IM races at the MIAC championships and will try to join an elite group of four-time individual MIAC champs. Arnold has NCAA B qualifying times in the 50- and 100-yard freestyle races, while Prokop has a NCAA B qualifying time in the 200 breaststroke. SJU is the defending MIAC champion in the 200 and 400-yard freestyle relays. The 200 free relay team finished sixth at last year's NCAA championships and returns Vestrum and Arnold from that quartet.

St. Olaf graduated some big names, including diver Gabe Kortuue and versatile Jake Hvistendahl. Co-coaches Dave and Bob Hauck still have several swimmers seeded in the top eight, led by freshman Mark Glineberg, who is seeded first in the 400 IM. second in the 200 fly, 1000 free and 1,650 free and seeded third in the 200 IM and 500 free. Other Oles with top-eight seeds include freshman J.C. Chambers (50, 100 free), junior Anthony Blum (50, 100 free), soph Lee Thomsen (200, 500 free), soph Matt Raecker (100, 200 breaststrokes) and senior Grant VanLishout (200 breaststroke).

Carleton has seven consecutive fourth-place finishes at the MIAC meet. Brown is a three-time defending champion in the 200 freestyle and is this year's top seed in that event. He's the two-time defending champ and current third seed in the 100 free and is the third seed in the 50 free. In the relays, Coach Andy Clark's Knights are gunning for a strong showing the 200 freestyle relay. They enter as the third seed in that event and need to have more than two seconds off their time to reach the NCAA "B" qualifying standard. The 400 and 800 freestyle relay quartets are also seeded third. Individually, senior Dan Speiser hopes to join Brown in the 200 freestyle finals as he enters as the ninth seed. soph Andy Evans also needs to move up one spot from his seedtime to make it into the evening finals in the 100 breaststroke. Senior Andrew Haynes is seeded 11th in the 100 backstroke and 13th in the 200 backstroke. Freshman Ted Mullin is seeded ninth in the 1,650 freestyle and 13th in the 500 freestyle. Soph Michael Thorsen is 11th in the 100 freestyle while soph David Farina is ninth in the 200 breaststroke.

Led by sophomore Dave Linn -- the defending champion in the 100 and 200 backstrokes -- St. Thomas will try to reach fifth place. Linn is seeded second in both the 100 back and the 200 back and seventh in the 200 IM. Two other Toms are seeded in the top 10 -- senior Nick Schleder is seeded eighth in the 200 backstroke (2:04.47) and junior Brian Privette is seeded 10th in the 200 breaststroke (2:23.24). The Toms are seeded fourth or fifth in five relays.

Macalester is looking to improve on last year's fifth-place MIAC finish and will count heavily on senior all-conference distance specialist Joe Hanes, one of the most accomplished Mac swimmers in two decades. Hanes is looking to challenge in the 500-yard and 1650-yard freestyle races after placing second and third, respectively, in these two events in 2002. He should also be a factor in the 400 individual medley. The Scots should also do well in the diving events, led by senior Zephy McKanna and sophomore Bo Rydze. Senior sprinter Erik Nelson is also a potential finalist after taking sixth in the 50 free and sixth in the 100 fly last year.

Hamline has just six men competing, but soph Matt Wharton is seeded in the top 15 in the 200 fly and 500 and 1000 freestyles.

Divers have grabbed the spotlight for St. Mary's. Freshmen Erik Oksnevad and Kevin Jepsen have both posted Division III provisional national qualifying scores. Senior Scott Schultz is looking to contend in the 100 and 200 backstroke, while sophomores Sean Gibson and Steve Sadorf are also looking to make a splash.

Women's Outlook

The Gustavus women's swim team hopes to defend its 2002 MIAC swimming title, however it knows it they will receive a stiff test from Carleton and St. Olaf, both of whom defeated them in dual meets during the regular season. Coach Jon Carlson will rely on the experience of 16 swimmers who scored points for the Gusties at last year's meet. Three swimmers return to defend their individual conference titles -- senior Robbi Palombi in the 100 backstroke, junior Emily King in the 100 butterfly, and junior Ann Marie Miller in the 200 butterfly. Sophomore Eva Miller enters the meet with the top seed times in both the 100 and 200 breaststrokes. The Gusties have the top seed time 200 freestyle relay, too. If the Gusties are to defend their title, they will need to rely on their depth to pick up key points in the fourth, fifth and sixth spots in as many events as possible. Coach Carlson also hopes that a successful taper will result in the Gusties qualifying several

swimmers for the NCAA Championships.

In its title bid, Carleton will look to get big points again from Marsman, the top seed in the 50, 100 and 200 freestyle and the 100 butterfly. Although she missed the first portion of the season studying abroad, Marsman enjoyed a spectacular summer by qualifying for the 2004 Olympic Trials and earning a spot on the 2003 World University games. Marsman is a six-time MIAC individual champion and has won the last two 50 and 100 freestyle titles. She is a six-time All-American and three-time national champion. She is the MIAC overall and championships meet record-holder in all three sprint freestyle events. Carleton posted a perfect MIAC and regular-season, dual meet record for only the second time in school history. The Knights are the top seed in four of the five relays. Joining Marsman as top individual seeds are freshman Jenny Grover in the 100 and 200 backstroke, freshman Elise Knoche in the 500 and 1,650 freestyle and soph Emily Mondloh in the 200 IM. The Knights have solid depth -- Grover is seeded second in the 500 freestyle and senior teammate Maroya Spalding is seeded third. Senior Heidi Branz backs up Mondloh as the fifth seed in the 200 IM and soph Andrea Barbera and freshman Katie Magoon are in the top eight in the 50 freestyle. Soph Alex Cohen, freshman Anne Cary and Branz are seeded fourth, fifth and sixth, respectively, in the 400 IM. Mondloh and junior Emily Newman are top-six seeds with Marsman in the 100 butterfly. Newman and Branz are top-eight seeds in the 200 butterfly. Marsman, Knoche and Grover own the top three times in the 200 freestyle, and Mondloh is second in the 100 freestyle behind Marsman. Magoon and Barbera are also good bets at earning spots in the final eight. Rookies Cary and Molly Miller are seeded in the top six in both the 100 and 200 breaststrokes. Mondloh is seeded fifth in the 100 backstroke and senior Carolyn McCaffrey is seventh in the 200 backstroke.

St. Olaf returns two-event champion Katie Detwiler, last year's winner in the 400 IM and the 1,650 free. She's seeded first in the 20 Im and 200 fly, second in the 1000 free, third in the 400 IM and fourth in the 200 backstroke. Senior Anna Guenther is seeded first in the 100 backstroke and second in the 200 backstroke. Freshman Carly Knoell is seeded second in both the 100 and 200 backstrokes. Senior Laura Schutt is seeded first in the 1000 free, fourth in the 200 and 1650 free, fifth in the 500 free and sixth in the 200 free. Sonia Karimi is seeded second in the 200 fly. Jena Kubat is seeded third in the 200 fly and sixth in the 400 IM. Katie Blum is seeded third in the 100 free, fourth in the 50 free and eighth in the 200 free.

St. Benedict returns two All-MIAC swimmers and divers from last season -- Amanda Kelly (diving) and Stephanie Geen (backstroke). Kelly has been selected to the All-MIAC team every year she has dove for the Blazers. Rebecca Rueter has had an exceptional year in the 100 backstroke with two victories and five top-three finishes.

Concordia is seeking its first top-five MIAC team finish in its eight-year history. The Cobbers' optimism stems from their impressive dual record in 2002-03 and their top individual performances. Concordia finished the season by winning their last five dual meets and their last two invitationals. Concordia has won every event they have competed at since the beginning of December. Individually, Concordia has also posted successful numbers. Senior diver Andrea Ross broke school and Concordia pool records this season and has provisionally qualified for the nationals. Two individual swimmers have led the Cobbers in the pool -- soph Megan Johnson and senior Elizabeth Dougherty has been the ironwoman for the Cobbers in the distance events. She recently set the Concordia pool record in the 1650 freestyle, and has posted some fast times in the 500 freestyle.

Macalester is having its best women's swimming season ever and is looking to move up after going 5-1 in MIAC dual meets this winter. The Scots are led by sisters Lisa Lendway and Heather Lendway, a couple of standouts who could make the finals in several events. Junior diver Liz Fitzgerald placed fourth on both boards a year ago and should challenge for high conference finishes again. Soph Natalie Ross is having a good season in IM and backstroke events, while senior Janna Lundquist was fifth at last year's championships in both backstroke races.

St. Thomas swimmers are seeded in the top 10 in six events. Soph Krysy Harrod is seeded third in the 100 back, ninth in the 100 fly and ninth in the 200 IM; junior Missy Jackson is seeded sixth in the 100 backstroke and seventh in the 200 backstroke; and freshman Kate Boran is seeded eighth in the 100 fly. The Toms are seeded fourth in two relays -- the 200 medley and the 400 medley. Divers Danielle Lindeman and Jessica Stussy also will battle for top-eight finishes.

Hamline will be led by soph Thyra Jagger in diving. The Pipers also will look to junior Alaina Eckhoff, who's seeded in the top seven in the 50 and 100 freestyles; junior Beth Bisciglia, seeded seventh in the 100 backstroke; freshman jamie Alpert, seeded 11th in the 200 fly, and freshman Linsi Ulstad, seeded 12th in the 1650 free.

St. Catherine has three divers looking for top-five finishes -- junior Gretchen Kahlstorf, freshman Erin Melchior and senior Winn LaRue. Junior Lisa Niemczyk will try to crack the top 12 in the 100 backstroke.

St. Mary's will be led by sophomores Lindsey Salisbury and Lindsay DeLaRosby, with each competing in two individual events as well as four relays each. Junior Heidi Andre has also had a strong season and should make some waves in the 500 and 1,650 freestyle, as well as the 100 butterfly.

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Final Team Rankings

Women

1. Gustavus 814.5
2. Carleton 749
3. St. Olaf 682
4. St. Benedict 358
5. Hamline 272
6. St. Thomas 191.5
7. Macalester 185
8. Concordia 152

9 . St. Catherine 138
10. St. Mary's 69
Men
1 Gustavus 893.5
2 St. Olaf 801
3 St. John's 572
4 Carleton 385
5 Macalester 308
6 St. Thomas 245.5
7 St. Mary's 162
8 Hamline 157

2003 MIAC Men's & Women's
Swimming & Diving Championships
Feb. 20-22/U of M Aquatic Center
Meet schedule

Thursday, 10:30 a.m. Prelims

*500 Free

*200 IM

*50 Free

*Women's 3-Meter Diving

*Men's 1-Meter Diving

Thursday, 7 p.m. Finals

*200 Free Relay

*500 Free

*200 IM

*50 Free

*Women's 3-Meter Diving

*Men's 1-Meter Diving

*400 Medley Relay

Friday, 10:30 a.m. Prelims

*400 IM

*100 Butterfly

*100 Breaststroke

*Men's 3-Meter Diving

*100 Back

Friday, 7 p.m. Finals

*200 Medley Relay

*400 IM

*100 Butterfly

*200 Free

*100 Breaststroke

*100 Backstroke

*Men's 3-Meter Diving

*800 Freestyle Relay

Saturday, 10:30 a.m. Prelims

*200 Back

*100 Free

*200 Breaststroke

*200 Butterfly

*Women's 1-Meter Diving

Saturday, 7 p.m. Finals

*1650 Freestyle

*200 Back

*100 Free

*200 Breaststroke

*200 Butterfly

*Women's 1-Meter Diving

*400 Freestyle Relay