

SCU's Koval & St. Olaf's Kroker lead 2015 MIAC Women's Tennis Awards

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BLOOMINGTON, Minn. -- Women's tennis had a banner season in the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (MIAC) in 2015 with countless unforgettable matches and an entertaining fight for the regular-season and MIAC Playoff championships. Tuesday, the top performers from an outstanding season were recognized with the announcement of the 2015 MIAC Women's Tennis Awards, and it's no surprise the coaches couldn't pick just one winner for the league's top honors.

A pair of standout seniors - St. Catherine's Maria Koval (Green Bay, Wis. / Notre Dame Academy) and St. Olaf's Kristi Kroker (La Crosse, Wis. / Logan) - shared the MIAC's top individual honor as co-winners of the Chris Evert Award. The MIAC coaches also tabbed two winners for the MIAC Coach-of-the-Year award, as Gustavus' Jon Carlson and St. Thomas' Terry Peck shared the honor. In addition, the 2015 MIAC All-Conference Singles and Doubles teams were announced, as was the All-MIAC Sportsmanship Team.



Koval and Kroker's co-selection as the Chris Evert Award winners recognized their outstanding achievements both on and off the court. The award annually recognizes a senior tennis student-athlete with outstanding sportsmanship and exemplary athletic, academic and humanitarian accomplishments. Both seniors led their teams to the MIAC Playoffs, as St. Olaf finished 12-6 overall and 7-3 in MIAC matches to finish in fourth place, and St. Catherine was 11-7 overall and 6-4 in conference play to finish fifth.

Both players had fantastic senior seasons on the court, as Koval earned All-MIAC singles and doubles honors, and Kroker was an All-MIAC singles honoree. Koval was 10-8 in singles play and 12-6 in doubles play, and went 8-2 in both singles and doubles in conference matches in 2015. Kroker has a 12-5 overall singles record with a 7-3 MIAC mark, and she was .500 in doubles play (9-9, 5-5 MIAC). In addition to their on-court success, both are excellent students and have contributed to their campuses and communities in numerous ways throughout their student-athlete careers.

It's only fitting that Carlson and Peck shared the MIAC's coaching honor for 2015, as their teams finished 1-2 in both the regular season standings and MIAC Playoff tournament. This is the eighth time Carlson has been named the MIAC Women's Tennis Coach-of-the-Year (1994, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2003, 2004, 2010, 2015) and it's the first women's honor for Peck and fourth overall after earning the conference's men's coaching award three times, with the last coming in 1998.

Carlson coached Gustavus to a 16-13 overall record and a perfect 10-0 mark in MIAC play en route to the regular-season conference title. Peck has coached St. Thomas to an 18-2 overall record and his team went 9-1 in conference matches to finish second. The Tommies claimed their first-ever MIAC Playoff championship Sunday with a title-match win over Gustavus, and they'll represent the MIAC in the NCAA Tournament this week.

The MIAC Women's Tennis All-Conference Singles and Doubles teams were determined using a point system for conference wins at each position, with the top 18 recognized for both singles and doubles. This season, there were 10 student-athletes that earned both singles and doubles honors in 2015.

The Singles Team includes four seniors, seven juniors, four sophomores and three first-year players. MIAC Playoff champion St. Thomas and St. Catherine led the way with four All-Conference singles players apiece. Regular-season champ Gustavus and Carleton each had three singles players recognized, and St. Olaf and Saint Benedict had two All-Conference singles selections apiece.

The Doubles Team features three seniors, 11 juniors, two sophomores and two freshmen. Gustavus, St. Thomas, Carleton and St. Catherine each had four players recognized on the All-Conference Doubles Team, and Saint Benedict rounded out the 18-player squad with two selections.

As part of a conference-wide sportsmanship initiative, the MIAC announced the ninth annual All-MIAC Sportsmanship team for women's tennis. Members of the All-MIAC Sportsmanship team are selected by their coaches and teammates as individuals who demonstrate ideals of positive sportsmanship both on and off the field of competition.

2015 MIAC WOMEN'S TENNIS AWARDS

Co-Chris Evert Award: Maria Koval, St. Catherine (Sr., Green Bay, Wis. / Notre Dame Academy)

Co-Chris Evert Award: Kristi Kroker, St. Olaf (Sr., La Crosse, Wis. / Logan)

Co-Coach-of-the-Year: Jon Carlson, Gustavus (25th season)

Co-Coach-of-the-Year: Terry Peck, St. Thomas (23rd season)

2015 MIAC WOMEN'S TENNIS ALL-CONFERENCE SINGLES TEAM

<u>Name</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Hometown/Previous School</u>
Caitlin Bakke	St. Thomas	Fy.	Bismarck, N.D. / St. Mary's Central
Laura Finn	Saint Benedict	So.	Delano, Minn.
Alisa Hall	St. Olaf	Jr.	Lakeville, Minn. / North
Kylie Ketcho	St. Catherine	Jr.	Eden Prairie, Minn. / Academy of Holy Angels
Alicia Knoll	St. Catherine	So.	Waseca, Minn.
Maria Koval	St. Catherine	Sr.	Green Bay, Wis. / Notre Dame Academy
Laurel Krebsbach	Gustavus	Sr.	North Oaks, Minn. / Mounds View
Kristi Kroker	St. Olaf	Sr.	La Crosse, Wis. / Logan
Kara Lefsrud	St. Thomas	Sr.	Mahtomedi, Minn.
Bridget Noack	St. Thomas	Jr.	Hartland, Wis. / Brookfield East
Daley Rugar	Saint Benedict	Jr.	Merrill, Wis. / Newman Catholic
Mikinzee Salo	St. Catherine	Jr.	Brainerd, Minn.
Michaela Schulz	Gustavus	So.	Elk River, Minn.
Caitlin Shea	Carleton	So.	Joliet, Ill. / Township West
Claire Spencer	Carleton	Jr.	Newport News, Va. / Menchville
Lizzy Stanczyk	Gustavus	Jr.	Plymouth, Wis.
Danielle Vasiliev	Carleton	Fy.	Lincolnshire, Ill. / Stevenson
Jenna Zimmerman	St. Thomas	Fy.	Racine, Wis. / St. Catherines

2015 MIAC WOMEN'S TENNIS ALL-CONFERENCE DOUBLES TEAM

<u>Name</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Hometown/Previous School</u>
Mikayla Becich	Carleton	Jr.	Bradfordwoods, Pa. / North Allgheny
Jenna Czarnecki	St. Thomas	Fy.	Sioux Falls, S.D. / O'Gorman
Alana Danieu	Carleton	Fy.	East Aurora, N.Y.
Grace Davis	Carleton	Jr.	Neenah, Wis.
Sidney Dirks	Gustavus	Jr.	St. Peter, Minn.
Shelby Henderson	St. Thomas	Jr.	Lakeville, Minn. / South
Kylie Ketcho	St. Catherine	Jr.	Eden Prairie, Minn. / Academy of Holy Angels
Maria Koval	St. Catherine	Sr.	Green Bay, Wis. / Notre Dame Academy
Laurel Krebsbach	Gustavus	Sr.	North Oaks, Minn. / Mounds View
Kara Lefsrud	St. Thomas	Sr.	Mahtomedi, Minn.
Angie Lorenzen	St. Catherine	Jr.	Mitchell, S.D.
Bridget Noack	St. Thomas	Jr.	Hartland, Wis. / Brookfield East
Rachel Raden	Saint Benedict	Jr.	Burnsville, Minn.
Daley Rugar	Saint Benedict	Jr.	Merrill, Wis. / Newman Catholic
Mikinzee Salo	St. Catherine	Jr.	Brainerd, Minn.
Michaela Schulz	Gustavus	So.	Elk River, Minn.
Caitlin Shea	Carleton	So.	Joliet, Ill. / Township West
Lizzy Stanczyk	Gustavus	Jr.	Plymouth, Wis.

2015 WOMEN'S TENNIS ALL-MIAC SPORTSMANSHIP TEAM

Bethel - Kristin Vivian (Sr., Green Bay, Wis. / Southwest)
 Carleton - Grace Davis (Jr., Neenah, Wis.)
 Concordia - Taylor Peterson (Sr., Minot, N.D.)
 Gustavus - Laurel Krebsbach (Sr., North Oaks, Minn. / Mounds View)
 Hamline - Shamara Duwearatchi (Sr., Minneapolis, Minn.)
 Macalester - Gabby Queenan (Sr., Bedford, Mass.)
 Saint Benedict - Taylor Kraemer (Fy., Osakis, Minn.)
 St. Catherine - Alicia Knoll (So., Waseca, Minn.)
 Saint Mary's - Stacey Buss (Sr., Chicago, Ill. / Resurrection)
 St. Olaf - Andrea Jumes (Sr., Appleton, Wis. / Xavier)
 St. Thomas - Jenna Zimmerman (Fy., Racine, Wis. / St. Catherines)