

Chris Evert Award winner Laura Sunday headlines 2019 MIAC Women's Tennis awards

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BLOOMINGTON, Minn. – The Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (MIAC) announced the 2019 MIAC Women's Tennis Awards on Wednesday, including the Chris Evert Award, Coach of the Year, All-Conference and honorable mention teams and All-MIAC Sportsmanship Team.

Saint Mary's senior **Laura Sunday** was selected as the 2019 MIAC Chris Evert Award winner. The award annually recognizes a senior women's tennis student-athlete who exhibits outstanding sportsmanship and exemplary athletic, academic and humanitarian accomplishments.

Sunday (Sr. | West St. Paul, Minn. | South St. Paul) played every match for Saint Mary's at No. 1 singles and No. 1 doubles over the last four years. She finished her career with more than 100 combined victories and was a three-time All-MIAC selection in singles play and a two-time All-Conference honoree as a doubles competitor. A two-time Academic All-MIAC recipient and three-time International Tennis Scholar Association scholar-athlete, Sunday is also the president of the Cardinals' Student-Athlete Advisory Committee, a leader within the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and part of the Lasallian Honors program at SMU. Beyond athletics, she has been a four-year participant in concert choir and serves as an admissions student ambassador and a tutor for the student success center on campus.



"For all her awards and abilities on the court, her best attribute is that she is just an awesome person -- selfless, thoughtful, funny, kind, and generous," Saint Mary's coach Jeff Halberg said. "She has been our official team captain for two years, but in a sense, she has been captain of the team since she showed up her freshman year. Laura is a born leader."

In addition to the Chris Evert Award, MIAC tennis coaches also selected the MIAC Women's Tennis Coach of the Year. Bethel coach **Drew Fernelius** and Saint Mary's coach **Jeff Halberg** were both honored by their peers as Co-Coaches of the Year. The award is the third for each coach with Fernelius previously receiving the honor in 2016 and 2018, while Halberg was selected the Men's Coach of the Year in 2013 and the Women's Co-Coach of the Year in 2010. Fernelius has guided the Royals to all five of their MIAC Playoff berths during his seven seasons in Arden Hills, while Halberg took the Cards to their second MIAC tournament appearance in the last three seasons.

The 2019 MIAC Women's Tennis All-Conference Singles and Doubles teams were also recognized. The All-Conference team is selected based on performance during conference dual matches, with the top 18 players (including ties) recognized for both singles and doubles. A player must play in five conference matches at any position to be eligible for the honor. For the first time ever, coaches also voted on an honorable mention team.

As part of a conference-wide sportsmanship initiative, the MIAC announced the 13th annual All-MIAC Sportsmanship team for men'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.

2019 MIAC Women's Tennis Awards

Chris Evert Award – Laura Sunday | Saint Mary's University (Sr. | West St. Paul, Minn. | South St. Paul)

Coach of the Year – Drew Fernelius | Bethel University (7th Season), Jeff Halberg | Saint Mary's University (21st Season)

2019 MIAC Women's Tennis All-Conference Singles Team

Name	Institution	Class	Hometown High School
Kristina Conrad	Carleton	Sr.	Plymouth, Minn. Robbinsdale Armstrong
Courtney Fenech	Hamline	Fy.	Plano, Texas University Prep

Lilly Hartman	Gustavus	Sr.	Cedar Rapids, Iowa Washington
Briana Hartmann	Gustavus	Sr.	Owatonna, Minn.
Natasha Hood	St. Thomas	Jr.	London, England Lewis & Clark College
Catherine Lindsay	St. Thomas	So.	Eau Claire, Wis. Memorial
Taylor McLeod	St. Thomas	Jr.	Vadnais Heights, Minn. Benilde-St. Margaret's
Mackenzie Novak	Bethel	So.	Eagan, Minn. Eastview
Simona Potockova	Gustavus	Fy.	Nova' Dubnica, Slovakia
Madeline Prins	Carleton	Jr.	Pacific Palisades, Calif. Palisades Charter
Grace Riermann	Bethel	Fy.	Stillwater, Minn. Mahtomedi
Maggie Riermann	Bethel	So.	Stillwater, Minn. Mahtomedi
Sonya Romanenko	Carleton	Fy.	San Diego, Calif. Rancho Bernardo
Laura Sunday	Saint Mary's	Sr.	West St. Paul, Minn. South St. Paul
Anna Stutz	Gustavus	Fy.	Dellwood, Minn.
Ginger Valentine	Gustavus	So.	Delano, Minn.
Jill Weinzettel	Bethel	Sr.	Hastings, Minn.
Alisha Wiedmeier	St. Catherine	Jr.	Rapid City, S.D. Stevens
Jeanny Zhang	Carleton	Fy.	Guangzhou, China Dwight School

2019 MIAC Women's Tennis All-Conference Doubles Team

Name	Institution	Class	Hometown High School
Hannah Borgh	Gustavus	So.	Bettendorf, Iowa
Kristina Conrad	Carleton	Sr.	Plymouth, Minn. Robbinsdale Armstrong
Courtney Fenech	Hamline	Fy.	Plano, Texas University Prep
Lilly Hartman	Gustavus	Sr.	Cedar Rapids, Iowa Washington
Briana Hartmann	Gustavus	Sr.	Owatonna, Minn.
Taylor Jackson	St. Thomas	Fy.	Savage, Minn. Prior Lake
Colleen Lois	Saint Mary's	So.	Green Bay, Wis. Notre Dame Academy
Paige McLeod	St. Thomas	Jr.	Vadnais Heights, Minn. Benilde-St. Margaret's
Taylor McLeod	St. Thomas	Jr.	Vadnais Heights, Minn. Benilde-St. Margaret's
Mackenzie Novak	Bethel	So.	Eagan, Minn. Eastview
Olivia Paradise	St. Thomas	Fy.	Mahtomedi, Minn.
Natalie Pieterick	Hamline	Sr.	Eau Claire, Wis. Regis
Simona Potockova	Gustavus	Fy.	Nova' Dubnica, Slovakia
Madeline Prins	Carleton	Jr.	Pacific Palisades, Calif. Palisades Charter
Grace Riermann	Bethel	Fy.	Stillwater, Minn. Mahtomedi
Maggie Riermann	Bethel	So.	Stillwater, Minn. Mahtomedi
Laura Sunday	Saint Mary's	Sr.	West St. Paul, Minn. South St. Paul
Ginger Valentine	Gustavus	So.	Delano, Minn.
Jill Weinzettel	Bethel	Sr.	Hastings, Minn.

2019 MIAC Women's Tennis Honorable Mention Team

Name	Institution	Class	Team	Hometown High School
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Megan Anderson	Hamline	Jr.	Singles	Eagan, Minn.
Julia Boeve	Saint Mary's	Sr.	Singles	St. James, Minn.
Bri Dorr	St. Catherine	Jr.	Singles	Princeton, Minn.
Taylor Jackson	St. Thomas	Fy.	Singles	Savage, Minn. Prior Lake
Sabrina Barboza	St. Olaf	So.	Doubles	Katy, Texas Seven Lakes
Greta Prokosch	St. Olaf	So.	Doubles	Mendota Heights, Minn. Henry Sibley
Anna Stutz	Gustavus	Fy.	Doubles	Dellwood, Minn.

2019 MIAC Women's Tennis All-Sportsmanship Team

Name	Institution	Class	Hometown High School
Jill Weinzettel	Bethel	Sr.	Hastings, Minn.
Kristina Conrad	Carleton	Sr.	Plymouth, Minn. Robbinsdale Armstrong
Lisa Neumann	Concordia	Sr.	Annandale, Minn.
Sheila Sullivan	Gustavus	Sr.	St. Paul, Minn. St. Paul Academy
Tessa Rugg	Hamline	Fy.	Snohomish, Wash.
Laurel Hickey	Macalester	So.	Chatham, N.J.
Tessa Rahrck	Saint Benedict	Jr.	Owatonna, Minn.
Maddy Knoll	St. Catherine	Jr.	Waseca, Minn.
Marissa Kinzer	Saint Mary's	Sr.	Aitkin, Minn.
Ellie Bergstrand	St. Olaf	Sr.	Alexandria, Minn.
Catherine Lindsay	St. Thomas	So.	Eau Claire, Wis. Memorial