

Gustavus win's first ever team MIAC Women's Cross Country Championship

ST. PAUL, Minn. (11/1/03) -- Carleton College's **Matt Hooley** and Macalester College's **Koby Hagen** earned men's and women's individual conference championships, and the University of St. Thomas men and the Gustavus Adolphus College women earned team championships at the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Cross Country Championship meet at the Como Park Golf Course on Saturday afternoon.

With three runners earning All-MIAC honors, Gustavus won its first-ever women's team championship with 68 points. St. Olaf was second with 80 points, St. Thomas was third with 105 points and Carleton was fourth with 106.

On the men's side, St. Thomas won its 23rd conference team championship -- the most of any MIAC school, and its third championship in the last four years. St. Thomas had five runners earn All-MIAC honors. Defending conference champion Carleton was second with 56 points, St. Olaf was third with 66 points and Macalester was fourth with 100 points.

In a tight race on the women's side, Hagen, a sophomore, claimed the conference crown by five seconds over Gustavus senior **Jen Skalko**, who earned All-MIAC honors for the second time in her career. Hagen finished the 5,000-meter women's race in 18-minutes, 46-seconds, while Skalko finished in 18:51. St. Thomas junior **Nicole Gurgel** finished third in 18:52 and Gustavus junior **Nichole Petersen** was fourth in 18:55.

Hagen is the first Macalester runner to win an individual conference championship in cross country since 1986, the final year of three straight conference titles for **Julia Kirtland** (1984-86).

Hooley claimed the men's conference title for the first time by 15 seconds, finishing the 8,000-meter men's race in 25:32. Hooley, a senior, earned All-MIAC honors for the third season in a row, after finishing third in 2002 and fourth in 2001.

St. Thomas senior **Nate Coleman** was second in 25:47, St. Olaf junior Kelly Fulton was third in 25:52 and Carleton junior Dan Bucy was fourth in 26:01.