

MIAC honors Tom Witschen with 2013-14 Mike Augustin Award

Posted: Oct 17, 2013

MINNEAPOLIS -- Tom Witschen of T.J. Broadcast Services is in his 39th year of broadcasting college athletics and, for the past 18 years, his talents have helped a wide audience enjoy the competitive action in the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (MIAC). Witschen will be deservedly honored for his outstanding service to the conference Saturday, as he will receive the conference's highest media honor, the 2013-14 MIAC Mike Augustin Award.

The MIAC Sports Information Directors unanimously selected Witschen - who has spent the past 16 years as the primary play-by-play broadcaster for Augsburg College athletics - as the recipient of the award at their annual meeting in August. Witschen will be honored and presented with the award during halftime of Saturday's MIAC football game between St. Olaf and Augsburg at the Auggies' Edor Nelson Field in Minneapolis. Kickoff is 1 p.m.



Witschen is the 12th recipient of the Mike Augustin Award, which is presented annually to recognize outstanding contributions to MIAC athletic programs and their student-athletes in the area of media, broadcasting and sports information. The award is named in memory of the late Mike Augustin, a longtime sportswriter at the Pioneer Press and an articulate friend, follower and advocate of the MIAC.

"I'm humbled to be thought of for this award," Witschen said. "Working with Augsburg and the MIAC for all these years, I have found a home where my work is truly appreciated. I'm happy to be a part of the Augsburg and MIAC family."

"Tom Witschen is an extremely deserving recipient of the Mike Augustin Award," said MIAC Assistant Executive Director Matt Higgins. "His talents enhance broadcasts of both Auggie athletics in addition to other events around the MIAC. Tom's dedication to the conference, Augsburg College and the coaches and student-athletes is second-to-none, and we're excited to present him with this fitting tribute for his immense contributions."

Witschen has been the play-by-play voice of the Augsburg sports since 1997, first on Twin Cities radio stations and now through the college's webcast program via Stretch Internet. Augsburg produces more than 130 video and audio sporting event webcasts each year in a variety of sports. Witschen and T.J. Broadcast Services also work with conference member St. Catherine University.

"Tom Witschen cares passionately about Augsburg College, its student-athletes and coaches," said Augsburg Sports Information Director Don Stoner, who nominated Witschen for the honor. "He bleeds maroon and gray. He loves MIAC sports and the people who participate in them. I am so proud of his association with Augsburg College, and am more proud to call him a great friend."



Tom Witschen

In addition to its work in the MIAC, T.J. Broadcast services is a well-known entity to sports fans throughout Minnesota and the Upper Midwest. It has also broadcast contests for the University of Minnesota, the Minnesota State High School League and numerous high schools throughout Minnesota and Wisconsin.

Witschen is the first individual with a primary association with Augsburg to receive the award. He is the third play-by-play broadcaster to receive the award, joining Mike Morrissey (St. Olaf College/Carleton College) and Larry Knutson (Concordia College).

The Mike Augustin Award is the second prestigious honor of Witschen's distinguished career. He was inducted into the Minnesota State High School Football Coaches Hall of Fame in 2007. Witschen survived a bout with Hodgkin's disease in 2005, and has been cancer-free for nearly eight years. During his 39-year career Witschen has broadcast more than 4,000 games at the NCAA Division I, II and III and NAIA levels for 12 different conferences in three states.

"Witschen is and forever will be a dear friend to the MIAC, and we're very much looking forward to Saturday," Higgins said. "It will be great to honor Tom in front of the Auggie faithful."

The conference established the Mike Augustin Award in 1999, following Augustin's death from a sudden illness in December of 1997. Augustin respected Division III institutions, student-athletes and coaches. The MIAC's [Mike Augustin Award web site](#) includes complete details and past recipients.

Don Stoner, Augsburg Sports Information, contributed to this release.

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