Unprecedented spring performances propelled Augustana to its first Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference/US Bank All-Sports Award.

Emily Kvidera, class of 2013, tied for 15th at the NCAA Championship, the highest finish for a Viking. She was named to the NSIC All-Tournament Team after finishing third at the NSIC Championship and was the medalist at the Concordia Invite in September 2010.
It’s Been a Great Year to be a Viking

Augustana women won conference championships in golf, softball, tennis, and track. Five of the eight spring teams qualified for NCAA Division II championship play. Gretta Melsted (softball), Peggy Kirby (women’s golf), Marc Kurtz (women’s tennis), and Tracy Hellman (women’s track) were chosen conference coaches of the year.

In 2010-11 Augustana captured seven conference championships and one division crown. In addition to the spring harvest, the Vikings won women’s and men’s cross country titles, and football claimed a division title in the fall. The wrestling team prevailed in the winter. Since joining the NSIC in 2008, the Vikings have finished no lower than second in the all-sports rankings.

Kirby’s golf team was especially dominant. The Vikings breezed to conference and region championships by a combined 96 strokes. Leading the way were freshmen Allie Ostrander and Maggie Leland. Ostrander was the Central Region medalist, while Leland was named NSIC newcomer of the year. Augustana made its fourth straight appearance in the NCAA Championships finishing in a tie for ninth.

Behind the success of the spring squads, Augustana won the NSIC/US Bank All-Sports Standing for the first time in school history. The Vikings were also sixth in the Learfield Sports Directors’ Cup standings released in late May, and with the softball, baseball and track teams garnering big points at their respective NCAA postseason endeavors, Augustana could likely climb a few spots.

Accomplishments also came in the classroom for Augustana. Three Vikings – Dan Schoen, Matt Braithwaite and Jay Sherer – were awarded NCAA Postgraduate Scholarships in 2010-11. A total of 116 student-athletes were also named Academic All-NSIC.
TRACK
Sophomore Runa Falch was voted NSIC women’s track athlete of the year after her three wins (1500, 5000, 10,000) paced Augustana to its first ever women’s outdoor team title. Kelly Kougi (800), Kyle Blakeslee (steeplechase), and Andrea Whitney (high jump) also notched wins for the women. The men’s team finish fourth with Tom Karbo showing the way with two wins (1500, 5000). Hellman’s Vikings left a trail of broken records throughout the spring, including six school marks. Seven Vikings qualified for national competition, with Falch (1500) and Aduo Omor (800) claiming titles.

BASEBALL
Augustana advanced to the NCAA Tournament for the first time in school history. Coach Tim Huber directed the Vikings to their first wins in NSIC Tournament play. Senior Nate Bauman set seven career records including home runs and RBIs. Senior Bret Severtson set the school record for saves in a season and career. Augustana finished the regular season with a 28-20 record and was fifth in the NSIC with a 20-12 mark.

WOMEN’S TENNIS
Kurtz guided the Vikings to their first ever national championship appearance, where they lost to Concordia (NY) in the round of 16. The Vikings successfully defended their conference title and defeated Nebraska-Kearney to advance to the NCAA Finals. The Vikings have won 29 consecutive conference matches, going unbeaten over the last two seasons. Augustana’s Brittany Gaster was chosen NSIC Senior of the Year.

SOFTBALL
Power at the plate distinguished this Viking squad from all others in the program’s illustrious history. The team’s 72 home runs following Super Regional play was a single-season mark and four Vikings contributed at least 10 each. Senior Traci Fransen set the career home run record with 35. The Vikings won the NSIC championship for the second straight season — posting a 22-3 record in league play — and were 50-11 after the Super Regional. Melstad’s Vikings were ranked as high as No. 7 nationally. The Vikings won the NSIC Tournament for the first time and appeared in the NCAA Championships for the 19th time.

2011 Football, Volleyball Home Schedules Announced

Fall 2011 home football games, to be played at Kirkeby-Over Stadium:

Sept. 3: Minnesota Duluth, 1 p.m.
Sept. 10: Bemidji State, 1 p.m.
Oct. 1: Concordia-St. Paul, 1 p.m.
Oct. 15: Winona State, 1 p.m. (Viking Days)
Oct. 22: Minnesota State Moorhead, 1 p.m.

***Oct. 27: Vikings at Minnesota State Mankato will be broadcast at 7 p.m. on the CBS Sports Network

Nov. 5: Wayne State, 1 p.m.

Fall 2011 home volleyball games, to be played at the Elmen Center:

Sept. 23: U-Mary, 7 p.m.
Sept. 24: Northern State, 3 p.m.
Oct. 7: Southwest Minnesota State, 7 p.m.
Oct. 8: Minnesota State, 3 p.m.
Oct. 14: Minnesota State Moorhead, 7 p.m.
Oct. 15: Minnesota, Crookston, 5:30 p.m.
Oct. 25: Concordia-St. Paul, 7 p.m.
Nov. 4: Upper Iowa, 7 p.m.
Nov. 5: Winona State, 5:30 p.m.
Nov. 12: Wayne State, 3 p.m.