

NEWS RELEASE

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USM Spires Basketball Players Named 'Champions of Character' by the KCAC

(Leavenworth, Kan.)—The Kansas Collegiate Athletic Conference (KCAC) has named two University of Saint Mary Spires Basketball players as “Champions of Character,” recognizing them as student-athletes who best live out the core values of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics’ (NAIA) Champions of Character Program.

The honored Spires are senior guard **Michelle Chrisman**, of Linwood, Kan., and senior guard **Quinten White**, of Kansas City, Kan.

“Quinten embodies the type of student-athlete we want representing our program here at the University of Saint Mary,” said Saint Mary Head Men’s Basketball Coach Jon Bishop. “He has been a quality young man with great character since the day he stepped onto our campus as a freshman and it’s been my pleasure to coach him every day.”

Head Women’s Basketball Coach Mike Basler praised Chrisman.

“Michelle’s one of the most dedicated players I’ve ever coached,” he said. “She’s a perfect example of a high character student-athlete, and sets a high mark for others to meet.”

The NAIA Champion of Character program honors students who display five core values: integrity, respect, responsibility, sportsmanship, and servant leadership. Honorees must be a full-time student in good academic standing, have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0, and participate in a varsity sports program.

Both Spires Basketball Teams qualified for the KCAC post-season tournament this year. The Lady Spires finished the season with a 5-13 conference record, good for the eight seed in the tourney, where USM lost a tightly-contested game to Friends University in the opening round.

The Saint Mary Men’s Team finished second in the KCAC and made it to the KCAC Tournament Championship Game, falling 86-79 to top-seeded McPherson College. The Spires are now bound for the NAIA Division II Championship Tournament March 7-13 in Point Lookout, Mo. In the first round, USM is matched up with Indiana Southeast at 5:45 p.m. Thursday, March 8.

Saint Mary has 12 varsity sports programs—football, volleyball, baseball, softball, men's and women's basketball, men's and women's soccer, cross country, and track & field—along with co-ed cheerleading and dance. Visit www.gospires.com to learn more about USM athletics.

The University of Saint Mary is a Catholic co-educational applied liberal arts university founded and sponsored by the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth. The University of Saint Mary is located at 4100 South 4th Street, Leavenworth, Kan., with additional locations in Overland Park and Kansas City, Kan. Visit www.stmary.edu for more information.

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