

NEWS RELEASE

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USM Spires Football Team Picks up Multiple End of Season Awards from KCAC

Spires Head Coach Lance Hinson Earns Share of Coach of the Year Honor



Lance Hinson

(Leavenworth, Kan.)—Following the completion of a successful season and second-place finish, 11 Spires Football players have earned designation to all-conference teams by the Kansas Collegiate Athletic Conference (KCAC), and USM's Head Football Coach Lance Hinson was named co-winner of the conference's Football Coach of the Year award.

Hinson, who's served as USM's head coach since 2005, shares the Coach of the Year award with Kent Kessinger, coach of KCAC regular season champs Ottawa University. He last earned a share of the award in his first season as USM head coach.

"I was honored and humbled by our conference coaches electing me as the co-Coach of the Year along with Coach Kessinger,"

Coach Hinson said. "It is truly an award based on the hard work and efforts of our team, coaches, and athletic department staff. Coaching is just like playing the game of football—it's a team sport, and you're only successful if you're surrounded with people who work and care about the team's success as much as you do."

Multiple Spires players also were recognized with end-of-season honors by the KCAC.

Earning First Team All-Conference designations were: quarterback **Mike Keese**, a junior from Olathe, Kan.; receiver **Fred Edison**, a sophomore from Compton, Calif.; receiver **Billy Owens**, a sophomore from Galveston, Texas; and linebacker **Cris Basch**, a junior from Las Vegas.

Defensive lineman **Opetia Tuiava**, a junior from Colorado Springs, Colo., was named to the KCAC's Second Team All-Conference.

Spires named as Honorable Mention were: running back **Kameron Ridley**, a junior from Dalton, Ga.; offensive lineman **Alan Gudka**, a freshman from Keenesburg, Colo.; offensive lineman **Logan Fritz**, a sophomore from Garnett, Kan.; defensive lineman **Jacob Stout**, a senior from Anderson, Calif.; defensive back **Nick Ruiz**, a senior from El Cajon, Calif.; and kicker/punter **Bobby Schattle**, a senior from Plano, Tex.

"I am proud of all of their accomplishments," Coach Hinson said. "We broke a lot of records this year: most wins, most passing and receiving yards, most conference players of the week.

“This was a great year for Spire Football, and we should all be proud of the accomplishments of our student-athletes.”

The Spires finished the season second in the KCAC with a 7-2 conference mark and a 7-4 record overall.

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.gospire.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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