

NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Bryan Schrepel 913-758-6165

E-mail: SchrepelB@stmary.edu



Championship Winning Coach Takes Over As USM's New Athletic Director



(Leavenworth, Kan.)—After four years serving as USM's head baseball coach, championship-winning coach Rob Miller officially took over as athletic director this summer replacing the departed Darrell Phipps. Miller is the most accomplished coach on USM's staff, having led the Spires to the Kansas Collegiate Athletic Conference (KCAC) Tournament Championship game two consecutive years, winning it in 2005. Miller will remain the head baseball coach and has plans to take USM athletics to the next level.

"I think Coach [Darrell] Phipps did a good job leading the athletic department, but I think we're ready for the next step," Miller said. "We need to identify what the next step is. I think we need to put a little more emphasis on being successful on the field."

There are plenty of positive signs in the immediate future for the Spires, most notably every program head coach will be back for the 2006-07 season. That has not happened in four years.

If Miller's coaching success transfers over to the administrative side, USM's athletic department will see immediate improvements. After just two seasons, Miller produced the program's first ever winning season, and a conference tournament championship in 2005. In 2006, the Spires were regionally ranked as high as No. 3 all season long.

Originally from Garnett, Kan., Miller has 21 years of coaching experience under his belt. Prior to coming to USM, he was a biology teacher and baseball coach at Leavenworth High School from 1992-1998. He served as an assistant at Missouri Western State University for three years, and one year at William Jewell College before coming to USM in 2002.

The University of Saint Mary is a private, co-educational applied liberal arts university founded by the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth. The University of Saint Mary is located at 4100 South 4th Street, Leavenworth, Kan., with additional locations at 11413 Pflumm in Overland Park and inside Providence Medical Center at 8929 Parallel Parkway in Kansas City, Kan.

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