

**NEWS RELEASE**

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## **USM Basketball Star Molly Dumovich Named NAIA Academic All American Scholar Athlete**

(Leavenworth, Kan.)—University of Saint Mary student-athlete Molly Dumovich has been named a 2006 NAIA II All American Scholar Athlete. Dumovich, a junior Kansas City, Kan. native and Bishop Ward High School graduate, played guard and small forward for the Lady Spires women's basketball team, averaging more than 30-minutes per game this season.

According to the NAIA, student-athletes are considered for All-American Scholar Athlete status if they maintain a 3.5 grade point average or better year round and are "major contributors" on their respective team. Coaches nominate their players that qualify by writing letters of recommendation to an NAIA panel. The panel later votes and approves who becomes an All-American.

Lady Spires Head Coach Michael Basler nominated Dumovich for the honor. As an assistant coach for Kansas City Kansas Community College, Basler mentored Dumovich during her freshman campaign. Basler left KCKCC after that season to become the head coach for USM. He recruited Dumovich heavily during her sophomore season at KCKCC.

"Molly is a great basketball player and an excellent leader for our program on and off the court," Basler said. "The best way for me to sum up Molly is she is the type of person I want my five year old daughter to group up to be like."

A psychology major, Dumovich is arguable the Lady Spires' top defender. According to Basler, she held some of the nation's top scorers well below their respective points-per-game average this past season. At mid season, Dumovich held the eventual NAIA scoring champion, Deb Remerde of Northwestern College, Iowa to just seven points for the game.

"This is a great honor," Dumovich said. "I was surprised I was nominated. I just wanted to do well and get good grades. Since I was a transfer and the classes were a little harder, I didn't know how I would do. I'm a little surprised, but very honored."

In addition to her All-American Scholar Athlete status, Dumovich was also named to the 2005-06 Kansas Collegiate Athletic Conference (KCAC) All Defensive Team.

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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