

NEWS RELEASE

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University of Saint Mary Senior Named KCAC Men's Basketball Player of the Year

(Leavenworth, Kan.)— USM Men's Basketball squad may have finished a game shy of the Kansas Collegiate Athletic Conference (KCAC) tournament finals, but the team still landed a raft of awards for their outstanding season, including KCAC Player of the Year honors for senior Carvelle Taylor.

Besides the Player of the Year recognition, Taylor, a 6' 1" guard out of McDonough, Ga., was named KCAC Newcomer of the Year and First Team All-KCAC. That's on top of the two KCAC Player of the Week awards Taylor won earlier in the season.

Fellow senior Mike Sylvara, a 6' 5" forward/center from Belton, Mo., joins Taylor on the All-KCAC First Team. Junior Winston Frazier, a 6' 3" guard from Kansas City, Kan., notched an All-KCAC Honorable Mention. As for the Women's Basketball team, which also qualified for the conference playoffs this year, 5' 8" point guard Rani Jacobs of Plains, Kan., won an All-KCAC Honorable Mention.

The award winners will be honored at a presentation at the KCAC tournament championship game at 7 p.m. Monday, March 2. The location has yet to be determined.

"I thought Carvelle was the best player all year in this league and for that to be validated by other coaches is quite an honor for not only him but also for our team," USM Men's Basketball Coach Jon Bishop said.

"Carvelle, Mike, and Winston have represented their team and university with class all year and these awards they received are much deserved," Bishop added.

The third-ranked Spires finished the regular season with an 18-10 overall record, 13-5 in KCAC play. They travel to second-seeded Kansas Wesleyan University for their semifinal game at 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 28.

Saint Mary has eight varsity sports: football, volleyball, baseball, softball, men's and women's basketball, and men's and women's soccer. Visit www.gospires.com for more information on University of Saint Mary Athletics.

The University of Saint Mary is a private, 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, Shawnee, and Kansas City, Kan. Visit www.stmary.edu for more information.

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Carvelle Taylor



Mike Sylvara



Winston Frazier



Rani Jacobs