

NEWS RELEASE

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NAIA Honors USM Spires Women's Basketball Player for Academic and Athletic Performance

(Leavenworth, Kan.)—University of Saint Mary junior Lauren Ceccucci was named a 2009-2010 Daktronics-NAIA Scholar-Athlete by the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics for her efforts both with the Lady Spires basketball team and in the classroom.

Ceccucci, a guard out of Flower Mound, Texas, was one of only 177 NAIA Division II women's hoopsters selected for the honor nationwide. To be considered, nominees must be in at least their junior year academically and maintain a GPA of at least 3.5 on a 4.0 scale.

"We are extremely proud of Lauren and her recent selection to the NAIA Division II Scholar Athlete Team for 2009-2010," said Mike Basler, USM's head women's basketball coach. "Lauren has worked hard to achieve at this level and her efforts over the past three years have paid off. Our basketball program takes great pride in achieving excellence both on the court and in the classroom."



Lauren Ceccucci

Ceccucci is the ninth Lady Spire named a NAIA Division II Women's Basketball Scholar-Athlete over the past five years. She has been a member of two of the program's three NAIA Division II Scholar Teams.

Saint Mary has eight varsity sports: football, volleyball, baseball, softball, men's and women's basketball, and men's and women's soccer. Go to www.gospires.com for more information on USM Spires 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, Shawnee, and Kansas City, Kan. Visit www.stmary.edu for more information.

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