

NEWS RELEASE

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University of Saint Mary Expands Athletics Offerings to include Track & Field, Cross Country, and Dance *New Squads Will Take the Field in 2011*

(Leavenworth, Kan.)—The University of Saint Mary will expand the ranks of its Spires student-athletes starting in the Fall 2011 semester with the addition of track & field, cross country, and dance teams.

USM Athletic Director Rob Miller projects that the addition of cross-country and track & field will bring about 25 to 30 new student-athletes to the Saint Mary campus. The dance squad will add a dozen or so more students. The dance squad will be associated with, but distinct from, the existing USM cheerleading program.

As with all USM sports, the cross country and track & field teams will compete in the Kansas Collegiate Athletic Conference. The KCAC does not sponsor competitive cheerleading or dance, and as such, USM's dance squad will be non-competitive.

Currently, the new programs are under development, and the university hopes to hire coaches by December of 2010 so they can begin recruiting during the Spring 2011 semester. Cross-country and dance would begin in Fall 2011. Track & field is a spring sport, and will get underway the following semester.

“We’ve heard a lot of interest in these programs from prospective and current students,” Coach Miller said. “This helps our athletic program grow, gives us the opportunity to expand our recruiting, and allows us to better serve and meet the demands of our student-athletes.”

For facilities, USM has an indoor track at Ryan Sports Center that could be used for indoor practices. The university will likely rent a facility from a neighboring public school for outdoor practices and meets.

USM currently offers eight varsity sports—football, baseball, softball, men’s and women’s basketball, baseball, softball, and volleyball—along with a cheerleading team. Go to www.gospire.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 and Kansas City, Kan. Visit www.stmary.edu for more information.

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