

NEWS RELEASE

Dec. 9, 2010

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Eight University of Saint Mary Students Named "Scholar-Athletes" by the NAIA

(Leavenworth, Kan.)—Eight University of Saint Mary students have been named as 2010-2011 Scholar Athletes by the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) for their efforts both in the classroom and on the field of play.

In order to receive the NAIA scholar-athlete award, students must be nominated by their head coach, must have achieved junior standing academically, and must maintain at least a 3.5 GPA on a 4.0 scale. The eight honored Spires come from a variety of fall sports: three from women's soccer, four from men's soccer, and one from volleyball.

The award-winners from the Lady Spires soccer team are **Jessalyn Sadler**, a senior defender from Bondurant, Iowa; **Kathleen Hermes**, a junior midfielder from Lawrence, Kan.; and **Michelle Lighton**, a senior midfielder from Arlington, Texas. Nationally, 446 women's soccer players were selected for the award.

The honorees from the USM Men's Soccer Team are **Alex Waite**, a junior goalkeeper from Blue Springs, Mo.; **Michael Bille**, a junior defender from Bonner Springs, Kan.; **Nick Stevenson**, a junior midfielder from Lansing, Kan.; and **Preston Becker**, a junior goalkeeper from Hays, Kan. They are among 284 players to win the award across the country.

Brittney Atchison, a junior defensive specialist from Lansing, Kan., represented the USM Volleyball Team on the honor roll. Atchison is one of 387 volleyball players in the nation to earn the award.

"Besides working their hardest on the field or on the court, USM athletes can always be counted on to shine in the classroom," said university Athletic Director Rob Miller. "Despite all of the remarkable effort our players put forth in practice and on gameday, academics never take a back seat at Saint Mary. These eight student-athletes are a credit to the university."

Saint Mary has 12 varsity sports programs—football, volleyball, baseball, softball, men's and women's basketball, men's and women's soccer, cross country, and track & field—along with co-ed cheerleading and dance.

Go to www.GoSpires.com for more information on USM sports.

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.