

NEWS RELEASE

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USM Begins Expansion of Athletics Program with Hiring of New Track and Cross Country Coach

(Leavenworth, Kan.)—The University of Saint Mary has named David Dominguez as head coach of the new men's and women's cross country and track & field programs, scheduled to begin competition in fall 2011.

Dominguez—a New York native—comes to USM from Cuyamaca College in El Cajon, Calif., where he coached cross country and track. He's also coached at Alliant International University, Alfred State, and Erie Community College. Dominguez earned his master's in education administration from National University, and his bachelor's from Kansas State University, where he competed in Big 8 and Big 12 track.

The cross country and track & field programs are brand new additions to the USM campus, and Dominguez will help shape their development, including hiring two assistant coaches in the coming months. USM previously was the only school in the Kansas Collegiate Athletic Conference to not field track and cross country teams.

"I want to build a great new tradition at Saint Mary," he said. "I want to build a competitive program, and my goal is to bring in student-athletes who are just as strong on the academic side as they are on the athletic side."

USM Athletic Director Rob Miller said the university was thrilled with the hire, and that the first priority for Dominguez would be to focus on recruiting.

"David really shows a lot of enthusiasm," Miller said. "He's really focused on the academic aspect of college athletics, and that's a nice fit for us."

The addition of the new programs—along with the creation of a new dance team to support the efforts of the USM Cheerleading squad—is in direct response to student demand, Miller said. He projects that the addition of cross country and track & field will bring in about 25 new student-athletes to USM.

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 events.

The last time USM saw such a significant expansion to its athletics program was in 1999, with the addition of football and baseball teams. Since that time, USM added a cheerleading team in 2009.

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. Visit www.gospires.com to learn more about USM 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.