

NEWS RELEASE

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University of Saint Mary Spires Men's and Women's Basketball Players Earn NAIA Honors

(Leavenworth, Kan.)—Three University of Saint Mary Spires Basketball players—one from the men's team and two from the women's team—have earned awards from the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) for their efforts on and off the court during the recently completed 2010-2011 basketball season.

From the men's team, senior Brandon Coleman, a 6'3" guard from Kansas City, Mo., was named as an honorable mention to the NAIA's Division II All-American Basketball Teams. Coleman—who led the Spires and the Kansas Collegiate Athletic Conference (KCAC) in points per game this year with just over 17—was one of five KCAC players to earn the All-American nod.

From the women's squad, Michelle Chrisman, a junior guard from Linwood, Kan., and Lauren Ceccucci, a senior guard and student manager from Flower Mound, Texas, were named as 2010-2011 Daktronics-NAIA Scholar Athletes.

Ceccucci and Chrisman are two of only 219 NAIA Division II women's hoopsters to be 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.

"I am proud of Brandon for his accomplishments on the court this season," said USM Head Men's Basketball Coach Jon Bishop. "Brandon also won a number of conference awards, including KCAC Newcomer of the Year."

Mike Basler, USM's head women's basketball coach, added "Michelle is a great student-athlete and very deserving of this honor. She balances both academics and basketball and is successful at the highest levels in both.

"Lauren is a two-time recipient of this honor and has always been very dedicated and driven to be an academic all American. We are extremely proud of her."

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.gospire.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.

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