

NEWS RELEASE

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University of Saint Mary Spires Guard Lands National and Conference Player of the Week Awards



Eric Avant

(Leavenworth, Kan.)— The National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) has recognized the strong play of Spires basketball player Eric Avant, naming him Division II Men’s Basketball Player of the Week for his performance last week.

Avant, a 6’5” guard out of Olathe, Kan., also notched his second men’s basketball player of the week award for the season from the Kansas Collegiate Athletic Conference.

In securing the awards, Avant averaged 30 points a game over three contests last week, while also averaging nearly 12 rebounds per game. Avant recorded four assists, two blocks, nine steals, and three double-doubles over the stretch while also connecting on 55 percent of his field goals.

According to the NAIA, Avant currently ranks 12th in the nation in Division II in both points per game and offensive rebounds.

“Naturally we’re very proud of the way that Eric has played,” said USM Head Men’s Basketball Coach Jon Bishop. “I’ve personally seen a lot of great performances at the college level, but I’m not sure I’ve witnessed any better than what Eric did last week.”

The Spires went 2-1 in last week’s match-ups. USM beat Faith Bible College 81-73 on Monday, Feb. 1; lost 91-84 to KCAC foe Sterling on Thursday, Feb. 4; and beat conference opponent Bethel 85-51 on Saturday, Feb. 6.

The Spires’ record on the season currently stands at 14-10 overall and 7-7 in KCAC play.

The Spires next home game is against conference opponent Ottawa University at 7 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 13, in Ryan Sports Center on USM’s Leavenworth Campus, 4100 South 4th Street.

Saint Mary has eight varsity sports: football, volleyball, baseball, softball, men’s and women’s basketball, and men’s and women’s soccer.

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 on the web for more information.