

NEWS RELEASE

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University of Saint Mary Spires Linebacker is KCAC Nominee for Prestigious NAIA National Scholarship



Noah Wooten

(Leavenworth, Kan.)—The Kansas Collegiate Athletic Conference (KCAC) has selected University of Saint Mary Spires football player Noah Wooten as the conference’s nominee for the NAIA’s prestigious A.O. Duer Scholarship Award.

The award, offered by the Kansas City-based National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics since 1967, is presented each year to a male and female student-athlete who has excelled in scholarship, character, and citizenship. To be eligible for the \$1,000 scholarship, nominees must also have an overall GPA of at least 3.75. The honoree is selected from among the nominees put forward by the NAIA’s various member conferences. The winner will be selected later this spring.

Wooten, a linebacker from Plano, Tex., is a deserving nominee due to his tireless energies on the field and his strong sense of community service off of it, said Spires Head Football Coach Lance Hinson.

“Noah is always the first on the sign-up sheet to do our community service events,” Hinson said. “He’s great with the kids from Big Brothers of Leavenworth County, and he takes time out of his schedule to go and read to elementary school children. I can think of no more deserving applicant.”

Wooten was nominated by Jim Zimmerman, director of USM’s sports management program and the university’s faculty athletic representative. Zimmerman praised Wooten for his integrity and leadership.

“I can’t imagine a more deserving individual. I am excited for Noah and for the university. This nomination is both a positive reflection on Noah as well as on our student body and athletics department,” Zimmerman said.

Wooten added: “It’s an honor just to be nominated. To go on to represent the KCAC on a national level is far and above anything I ever expected... None of my achievements would have been possible without the teaching and support from Coach Hinson and my teammates, as well as professors and classmates. They’re the real reason behind any success I have had.”

Saint Mary has eight varsity sports: football, volleyball, baseball, softball, men’s and women’s basketball, and men’s and women’s soccer. Visit www.gospire.com for more information about USM athletic programs.

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 for more information.