

## NEWS RELEASE

Oct. 16, 2009

Contact: John Shultz (913) 758-6165  
Email: [shultz35@stmary.edu](mailto:shultz35@stmary.edu)



## USM Men's Basketball Team Ranked First Overall in KCAC Pre-Season Coaches' Poll

(Leavenworth, Kan.)—The USM Spires Men's Basketball Team—coming off a 19-11 2008-09 season—earned the top spot in the Kansas Collegiate Athletics Conference preseason coaches' poll released this week.

The men's team, under the guidance of second-year coach Jon Bishop, was also ranked third out of the 10 KCAC teams in the conference's news media preseason poll.

"We feel good about the prediction just from the standpoint that the coaches recognize we have some pretty good players here at USM, and if we work hard everyday we have a chance to be there in March," Bishop said. "But I also know it doesn't bean a whole lot if we can't go out and handle the expectations put on us."

For the 2009-10 season, the Spires return two players—junior Brian LaTorre and senior Eric Nitsche—who saw starting time last season.

The USM men's and women's basketball teams tip off the new season with their alumni games on Friday, Oct. 30, in Ryan Sports Center on the USM Leavenworth campus, 4100 South 4<sup>th</sup> Street. The men's team then hosts Graceland University at 7 p.m. Monday, Nov. 2, and the women's team hosts York College at 6 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 7.

Visit [www.gospires.com](http://www.gospires.com) for more information on 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, Shawnee, and Kansas City, Kan. Visit [www.stmary.edu](http://www.stmary.edu) on the web for more information.*

###