

## USM Spire Sportswire

### Monday, April 28, 2008

#### Baseball

The men's baseball Spires have a chance to win the championship of the closely contested KCAC this week. Kansas Wesleyan is 14-8. Friends University is 14-9. And USM is 13-9.

We played five games last week and won two of them. The Tuesday doubleheader against Park University was rained out.

On Wednesday, our team hosted William Jewell College and was able to get in one game before the rain. We won 3-2.

On Saturday, we traveled to Hillsboro, Kan., and won both games of a doubleheader against Tabor College, 7-1 and 8-2.

On Sunday, we traveled to Wichita to make-up the rained out April 9<sup>th</sup> doubleheader against Friends. Unfortunately, we lost both games 4-2 and 10-9.

Tuesday, the Spires head to Salina, Kan., to play the final two games of the season against Kansas Wesleyan. If we win both games, we get an automatic bid to the NAIA Regional tournament in Hutchinson, Kan., starting on Wednesday, May 7<sup>th</sup>.

If we win both games, *and* Sterling beats Friends in one game of their Tuesday doubleheader, the baseball Spires will be KCAC champions. If not, the Spires place second, but still get the bid to the NAIA.

If we lose one of our Tuesday games, we'll place third and play in the KCAC tournament starting this Thursday in Salina. The winner of the KCAC tournament also goes to the NAIA regional.

The men's baseball Spires' overall record is 22-19 and 13-9 in the KCAC.

#### Softball

Last week, the women's softball Spires played eight games and won one.

On Monday, we lost both games of a doubleheader at McPherson College, 10-2 and 8-1.

On Tuesday, we lost two games to Ottawa, 9-8 and 8-0.

On Saturday, we won one game against KCKCC 9-1, and lost the other 9-6.

On Sunday, we lost two games to Friends University, 7-0 and 11-1.

On Thursday, the softball Spires head for Salina, Kan., for the KCAC tournament.

The women's softball Spires' overall record is 5-24-1, and 3-12-1 in the KCAC.

## Basketball

Jon Bishop is the new head men's basketball coach. Bishop succeeds Leonard Sparkman who left the post in March.

"Jon is a fantastic fit for USM," said Athletic Director Rob Miller. "He's familiar with the Kansas Collegiate Athletic Conference and is a great teacher."

Bishop was the assistant basketball coach at Missouri Western State University in St. Joseph. But he was assistant coach in the KCAC at Kansas Wesleyan University in Salina, Kan., from 2000 to 2002.

Bishop was a 1994 All-American guard at Central Methodist University in Fayette, Mo., where he graduated in 1995. He also earned a Master of Science Degree in Education from Northwest Missouri State in 2003.

"USM is a great school in a great location," said Bishop. "I've met the players and I think we've got a great future ahead of us."