



Spire Sportswire

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The *Spire SportsWire* is a weekly overview of USM Athletics, published every Monday

NEWS

Three players from the University of Saint Mary Volleyball Team were named as 2009 Volleyball Scholar-Athletes by the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) last week.

The winning Spires are Stephanie Wright, a senior outside hitter from Shawnee, Kan., Mary Ann Snyder, a senior hitter and defensive specialist from Lee's Summit, Mo., and Kara Gindlesperger, a senior opposite hitter from Eugene, Ore. To be considered for the award, nominees must be at least juniors and have a 3.5 grade-point average on a 4.0 scale.

Wright, Snyder, and Gindlesperger were three of just 304 volleyball players to be so honored nationwide.

BASKETBALL

The Spires Men's and Women's Basketball teams play their final games of the calendar year this week. Both teams close out 2009 with a pair of home contests.

The men's team hosts Friends University at 8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 10, and Sterling College at 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 12. The women's team plays Friends at 6 p.m. Thursday and Sterling at 5 p.m. Saturday.

In play last week, the men's team went 2-1.

On Monday, Nov. 30, the Spires beat William Woods University 79-60. In conference play later in the week, USM dropped an 86-83 squeaker to Southwestern College on Thursday, Dec. 3, and picked up a close, 73-71 victory over Kansas Wesleyan on Saturday, Dec. 5.

The men's record now sits at 7-3 overall on the year, and 1-1 in Kansas Collegiate Athletic Conference (KCAC) play.

The women's team, meanwhile, went 1-2 in games last week.

The Lady Spires opened the week with a 74-44 victory over Manhattan Christian College on Tuesday, Dec. 1. They went on to drop both conference games last week, 46-41 to Southwestern on Thursday, Dec. 3, and 57-42 to Kansas Wesleyan on Saturday, Dec. 5.

The Lady Spires record is now 2-9 overall and 0-2 in KCAC play.

