

## University of Saint Mary Baseball and Softball Players Earn Multiple End of Season Conference Awards

(Leavenworth, Kan.)—Eight players from the University of Saint Mary Baseball Team and three from the USM Lady Spires Softball Team have been honored by the Kansas Collegiate Athletic Conference (KCAC), earning designation to the KCAC's All-Conference teams, Gold Glove awards, and honors as conference Champions of Character.

The Spires Baseball Team had a particularly strong showing in this year's KCAC Gold Glove Awards—which recognize outstanding individual performance—winning four of the nine possible slots. The USM honorees were:

- **Joe Haak**, a junior first baseman from West Seneca, N.Y.
- **Michael Ferracuti**, a junior third baseman from Etobicoke, Ontario, Canada
- **Devin Hupp**, a junior shortstop from Leavenworth
- and **Travis Quick**, a sophomore catcher from Kansas City, Kan.

Other Saint Mary honors included All-KCAC Second Team designations for **Haak** and **Doug Caldwell**, a junior starting pitcher from San Lorenzo, Calif. Three spires were also named KCAC Honorable Mention: **Quick**, outfielder **Jesse Castro**, a junior from Kansas City, Kan.; and pitcher **Jake Wolf**, a junior from Goodyear, Ariz.

Honorees from the Lady Spires Softball team included **Steeli Norton**, a sophomore utility player from Pocatello, Idaho, who was named First Team All-KCAC. And **Victoria Toplikar**, a sophomore utility player from Olathe, Kan., was named All-Conference Second Team.

The KCAC also named USM's baseball and softball Champions of Character winners for the 2012 season. The honorees were: from the baseball team, **Stephen Malisa**, a junior pitcher out of Goodyear, Ariz., and from the softball team, **Kristina Hoffman**, a junior utility player out of Pocatello, Idaho.

The All-KCAC Champion of Character Award recognizes student-athletes who have demonstrated the five core Champion of Character values of Respect, Responsibility, Integrity, Sportsmanship, and Servant Leadership both on and off the field. Winners must be a full-time student in good standing and have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher.

"We're very proud of all of our award winners," said **Rob Miller**, USM's athletic director and head baseball coach. "These students represent the commitment to excellence, drive, and dedication we love to see in our Spires athletes. The high character of our players fuels their accomplishments both on the field and in the classroom."

Saint Mary has 12 varsity sports programs—football, volleyball, baseball, softball, men's and women's basketball, men's and women's soccer, cross country, and track & field—along with co-ed cheerleading and dance. Visit [www.gospires.com](http://www.gospires.com) to learn more about 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 and Kansas City, Kan. Visit [www.stmary.edu](http://www.stmary.edu) for more information.*