NEWS RELEASE
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University of Saint Mary Mourns Spires Football Player Killed in Wyoming Car Accident

Tommy Ross Was to Start Senior Year This Month

(Leavenworth, Kan.)—The University of Saint Mary is mourning one of its own. Senior Tommy Ross died in a car accident on Interstate 80 in Wyoming on Sunday, Aug. 14.

Ross, 21, was a Fremont, Calif., native and a wide receiver for the Spires football team. He transferred to USM in 2010 after earning his associate's degree from Laney College in California. He was majoring in sports management at Saint Mary.

Ross and his family were en route to USM for the beginning of the new academic year at the time of the wreck.

"The loss of Tommy has shaken our tight knit community, particularly our football team," said USM President Sister Diane Steele. "Tommy was a loved and respected member of the Saint Mary community."

In the classroom, Ross will be remembered as a strong student, said his academic advisor, Jim Zimmerman, head of USM's sports management program. Zimmerman described Ross as "a good student, very responsible, and very dependable."

On the field, Ross will be remembered for his high-impact plays. He was instrumental in one of the USM Football Team's biggest victories, making a key fourth-and-long reception during USM's narrow upset of nationally-ranked Friends University in October 2010.

"He made some great catches," said Lance Hinson, USM's head football coach. "Tommy had a dry sense of humor. He'd make you laugh sometimes without even trying that hard. He was a great guy to have around the program."

The University of Saint Mary football team gathered Sunday afternoon with President Sister Diane Steele and USM Chaplain Father Bill McEvoy to pray for Ross and his family and to support one another. A university-wide service will be held to remember Ross after all of the university's students return to campus.

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*** *for more information.*

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