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MIAA men's basketball postseason honors announced

Regular season co-champion Bearcats, Mules claim major awards, only unanimous first-teamers

(OVERLAND PARK, Kan.) -- The regular season men's basketball co-champions of the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association, Northwest Missouri State and Central Missouri, claimed all of the major season-end awards and both unanimous choices to the All-MIAA first-team.

Sophomore F Hunter Henry of Northwest (22-5, 15-3 MIAA) earned the conference's Most Valuable Player award after leading the Bearcats to a share of the league crown and averaging 17.7 points (third in the MIAA) and 7.8 rebounds (fourth in the MIAA) in the regular season.

Henry and senior G Zack Wright of UCM (24-3, 15-3 MIAA) were the only unanimous first team selections. Wright enters the MIAA Championship Tournament averaging 18.4 points (second in the MIAA), 6.1 rebounds (eighth in the MIAA) and a league-leading 2.2 steals per game.

Two Emporia State Hornets (21-6, 12-6 MIAA) and a member of the Pittsburg State Gorillas (16-11, 9-9 MIAA) round out the first team.

Senior G Donta Watson leads the MIAA in scoring (19.5 ppg) and free throw accuracy (84.3 percent), while also ranking third in three-point field goal shooting (45.0 percent) for ESU.

Junior G DeAndre Townsend is fifth in scoring (17.3 ppg) and fourth in assists (4.1 apg) in the MIAA. The duo combined to help the Hornets lead the conference in scoring (84.6 ppg).

PSU senior F Ed Morris averages 14.8 points (eighth in the MIAA) and 8.7 rebounds (second in the MIAA), and makes a conference-best 58.8 percent of his shots from the field. He also was a repeat selection to the MIAA All-Defensive Team.

The other repeat choice to the MIAA All-Defensive Team was UCM senior G Theo Jones, who also earned

First Team All-MIAA

*Hunter Henry, NWMSU F 6-8 190 So. Lenexa, Kan.
*Zack Wright, UCM G 6-2 182 Sr. Austin, Texas
Ed Morris, PSU F 6-7 202 Sr. Wichita, Kan.
DeAndre Townsend, ESU G 5-8 155 Jr. Minneapolis, Minn.
Donta Watson, ESU G 5-11 170 Sr. Evansville, Ind.

* = unanimous first-team selection

Second Team All-MIAA

Andy Calmes, TSU F 6-7 225 Sr. Forysth, Ill.
Nick Certa, TSU F 6-6 200 Jr. Godfrey, Ill.
Frank Phifer, WU F 6-9 220 Sr. Bronx, N.Y.
Jeff Pruitt, FHSU F 6-10 255 Sr. Beloit, Kan.
Lance Sullivan, NWMSU G 5-10 175 Fr. Columbus, Ohio

Six selected to second team due to a tie in voting

Honorable Mention All-MIAA

Cory Abercrumbie, PSU F/C 6-7 243 Jr. Piedmont, S.C.
Deonte Cox, MSSU F 6-8 220 Jr. St. Louis, Mo.
Theo Jones, UCM G 6-3 195 Sr. Bowling Green, Fla.

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MIAA All-Defensive Team

Ed Desir, ESU C 6-8 260 Sr. Castries, St. Lucia
Theo Jones, UCM G 6-3 195 Sr. Bowling Green, Fla.
Ed Morris, PSU F 6-7 202 Sr. Wichita, Kan.
Matthew Rogers, SBU C 6-11 205 Fr. Doniphan, Mo.

MIAA Most Valuable Player: Hunter Henry, F, NWMSU
MIAA Defensive Player of the Year: Theo Jones, G, UCM
MIAA Freshman of the Year: Lance Sullivan, G, NWMSU
Wilson/MIAA Coach of the Year: Steve Tappmeyer, NWMSU

– more –
the conference’s Defensive Player of the Year award.

Leading the second-team selections is Northwest G Lance Sullivan, the MIAA’s top-scoring freshman (11.3 ppg) and the conference’s Freshman of the Year award winner.

He is joined on the second-team by senior F Andy Calmes and junior F Nick Certa of Truman (15-12, 9-9 MIAA), senior F Jeff Pruitt from Fort Hays State (13-14, 6-12 MIAA), senior G Jason Jemison of Southwest Baptist (16-11, 10-8 MIAA) and senior F Frank Phifer of Washburn (8-19, 4-14 MIAA).

Others on the All-Defensive Team along with Jones and Morris are freshman C Matthew Rogers of SBU and senior C Ed Desir of ESU -- the league’s top two shot blockers at 2.85 and 2.15 bog, respectively -- and junior G John Hawkins of Northwest.

For the fourth time in his 19 seasons in the conference, Northwest Missouri State’s Steve Tappmeyer was selected by his peers as Wilson/MIAA Coach of the Year.

He took a team picked by his peers to finish fifth in the preseason poll and guided it to a share of the regular season title their first since 2001-02.