For release at 7 p.m., February 26, 2006 – Contact: Matt Newbery (913) 385-5323 or (816) 289-2442

MIAA men's basketball postseason honors announced

SBU’s unanimous first-team choice Pace earns MVP, Defensive Player of the Year awards

(KANSAS CITY, Mo.) — The second MIAA player to be a finalist for the Bob Cousy Award as college basketball’s point guard of the year highlighted the All-MIAA men’s basketball first team announced Sunday afternoon (Feb. 26) during the MIAA Media Welcome Reception to tip off MIAA Postseason Tournament Week at the Downtown Marriott Hotel.

Senior G Sheldon Pace of MIAA regular season champion Southwest Baptist (23-4, 12-4 MIAA) not only was the sole unanimous selection to the All-MIAA first-team, he earned the Most Valuable Player and Defensive Player of the Year award in a vote of the conference’s coaches.

Pace is the conference leader in assists (8.44 apg) and steals (2.30 spg), and has been in the Division II top 10 in assists most of the season. He also ranks among the MIAA top 10 scorers at the conclusion of the regular season (13.7 ppg -- 9th) and is second in the conference in field goal accuracy (52.7 percent).

He had 17 assists in a home win against Central Missouri State (21-6, 11-5 MIAA) earlier this season -- the most since Washburn’s Jordan Canfield had 17 in the 1994-95 season -- to go with 20 points. He was the catalyst to the Bearcats’ 14-0 start (best in school history) and their first MIAA regular season championship since 1990-91.

Pace also was one of three repeat first-team selections from last season -- joining CMSU senior F Michael Hicks and senior G Eddie Jackson of Pittsburg State (9-18, 5-11 MIAA).

Hicks (21.5 ppg) and Jackson (19.4 ppg) finished the regular season ranked 1-2 in the MIAA scoring race, as it appears Jackson will be denied in his bid to be the conference’s first three-time scoring champion.

Hicks also paces the MIAA in free throw shooting (86.9 percent) and three-point field goals made (3.81 per game). He’s been among the Division II top 10 in three-pointers made much of the season. He was a three-time Wilson/MIAA Player of the Week, including back-to-back weeks in which he averaged 28.3 points over a four-game span.

Jackson, in spite of being the focus of many defenses, posted 14 20-point games and four 30-point efforts. He

First Team All-MIAA
*†Sheldon Pace, SBU G 6-0 210 Sr. Los Angeles, Calif.
†Michael Hicks, CMSU F 6-4 200 Sr. Smyrna, Tenn.
†Eddie Jackson, PSU G 5-11 165 Sr. Cleburne, Texas
Demarius Bolds, MWSU G 6-3 170 Jr. East St. Louis, Ill.
Andy Calmes, TSU F 6-7 225 Jr. Forsthy, Ill.
* = unanimous first-team selection
† = Repeat selection from 2004-05

Second Team All-MIAA
LeRoy Dawson, ESU G 6-2 195 Jr. Los Angeles, Calif.
Quentin Edwards, MSSU G 6-3 185 Sr. Peoria, Ill.
Xzavier Gaines, NWMSU G 6-4 210 Sr. Grandberry, Texas
Chip Sodemann, TSU G 6-0 170 St. Louis, Mo.
Frans Steyn, SBU C 7-2 290 Sr. Pretoria, So. Africa

Honor Mention All-MIAA
Alonzo Brooks, CMSU C 6-7 230 Jr. Greenville, N.C.
Dylan Channel, WU F 6-6 205 So. Rossville, Kan.
Shawn Herriman, ESU F 6-6 215 Sr. Abilene, Texas
Mose Howard, NWMSU G 6-2 190 Jr. Omaha, Neb.
Dan Jones, MSSU F/C 6-7 240 Sr. Sarcoxie, Mo.
Derek Lindsey, TSU G 6-4 200 Jr. Eureka, Mo.
Edward Morris, PSU F 6-7 195 Jr. Wichita, Kan.
Tyrrell Sledge, ESU G 5-11 205 Jr. Minneapolis, Minn.
Wadale Williams, CMSU G 5-11 182 Jr. Columbia, Tenn.

MIAA All-Defensive Team
†Sheldon Pace, SBU G 6-0 210 Jr. Los Angeles, Calif.
Mose Howard, NWMSU G 6-2 190 Jr. Omaha, Neb.
Theo Jones, CMSU G 6-3 190 Sr. Bowling Green, Fla.
Edward Morris, PSU F 6-7 195 Jr. Wichita, Kan.
Chip Sodemann, TSU G 6-0 170 St. Louis, Mo.
Frans Steyn, SBU C 7-2 290 Sr. Pretoria, So. Africa
† = Repeat selection from 2004-05

Six players selected to defensive team due to a tie

MIAA Most Valuable Player &
MIAA Defensive Player of the Year
Sheldon Pace, SBU

MIAA Freshman of the Year
Colt Blair, SBU F 6-5 185 Bolivar, Mo.

Wilson/MIAA Coach of the Year
Jack Schrader, TSU
averaged 33.7 points in a three-game span to get recognition in *Sports Illustrated*'s "Faces in the Crowd."

Also making the first team were senior G Demarius Bold of Missouri Western (17-10, 8-8 MIAA) and junior F Andy Calmes of Truman (20-7, 10-6 MIAA).

Bold is third behind Hicks and Jackson in scoring (17.4 ppg), and has scored in double figures for 25 consecutive games this season. He also is tied for fifth in rebounding with 6.4 per game, and tied for ninth in assists (2.85 apg).

Calmes leads the MIAA in rebounds (9.3 rpg), including a league-best 6.81 on the defensive glass, and the only underclassman on the first team. He also leads the MIAA in double-doubles (9).

Junior G LeRoy Dawson of Emporia State (17-12, 7-9 MIAA), who has averaged 21.1 points since becoming eligible to play in mid-December, leads the second-team choices. He's joined by Truman senior G Chip Sodemann, SBU senior C Frans Steyn, senior G Quentin Edwards of Missouri Southern (12-15, 5-11 MIAA) and senior G Xzavier Gaines of Northwest Missouri State (19-8, 10-6 MIAA).

Joining Pace on the All-Defensive Team was Steyn, Sodemann, Northwest junior G Mose Howard, PSU junior F Edward Morris and CMSU senior G Theo Jones.

SBU F Colt Blair is the first Bearcat to win the MIAA's Freshman of the Year award. He led all MIAA freshmen in scoring (7.6 ppg) and was among the conference leaders in three-point shooting (currently 4th -- 40.0 percent) and three-pointers made (currently 10th -- 1.78 per game).

Jack Schrader of Truman was the choice of his peers as Wilson® Coach of the Year. It's the first time since the Bulldogs' Elite Eight season of 1998-99 that he's won the award -- he shared it that season with PSU's Gene Iba.

He guided Truman to their first 20-win season since 1998-99, and their first MIAA Postseason Tournament berth since 2000-01.