



News Release

Contact: Sandra Soliz
713-906-7912
solizs@stthom.edu

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**UNIVERSITY OF ST. THOMAS HIRES NEW MEN'S
SOCCER COACH FOR INAUGURAL INTERCOLLEGIATE TEAM**

HOUSTON (March 19) – The University is one goal closer to instituting an intercollegiate, Division I men's soccer team later this year. Aaron Champenoy, the former men's head soccer coach at Bellevue University in Nebraska, will serve as UST's men's soccer coach beginning March 30. Champenoy, a 12-year soccer veteran and coach, is ready to build a strong men's soccer team at UST.

“UST is a great institution with all the tools to be a consistent national power,” he said.

“Houston is an ideal location to build this new program. There is a wealth of soccer talent in this city and I plan on tapping into that talent early and often. My goal is to use this position to help mold student athletes who will succeed on the field, in the classroom and, eventually, in society.”

Champenoy led the Bellevue Bruins to four consecutive competitions in the Midlands Collegiate Athletic Conference and Region IV tournaments. In those four seasons, the Bruins placed 26 players on the MCAC All-Conference teams, nine players to the Region IV team and nine more with All-American honors. The team also added back-to-back MCAC tournament championships, giving the Bruins four MCAC titles in the last six years.

More

University of St. Thomas/Men's Soccer Coach/2222

The new coach is a 2003 Bellevue University graduate, finishing his playing career as a two-time MCAC first team player and a three-time All-Nebraska College first team selection. In 2001, his final playing season, Champenoy added an All-Region IV first team award and received All-American Honors. He was also the first men's soccer player to be named the Bellevue University Athlete of the Year for 2001-02.

Champenoy holds a certification with the National Soccer Coaches Association of America High School Coaching Special Topics, as well as the NSCAA National and Advanced National Coaching Diploma, both with distinction. Champenoy has also been active with the Nebraska Olympic Development Program where he was a head coach for four years.

Men's soccer will join the already initiated women's volleyball team, which recently completed its first season 5-15. The volleyball team was the first varsity sport at UST in more than 20 years. "This is a great time to be a member of the UST community," said Matt Prasifka, interim athletics director. "The women's volleyball team started things rolling, and we can only move forward from here."

UST is a private institution committed to the liberal arts and to the religious, ethical and intellectual tradition of Catholic higher education.