News Release

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UST Named Champions of Character Institution

Houston--The University of St. Thomas has been named a Champions of Character Institution by the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA). UST was one of 130 institutions that made the list for the 2006-07 school year.

"This is an exciting award for the University of St. Thomas," said Dr. Robert Ivany, UST President. "One of the reasons that we chose to join the NAIA was its commitment to the student-athlete through its Champions of Character program. It complements our goal to educate leaders of faith and character."

The NAIA is the governing body for athletics programs at 300 colleges and universities across the United States and Canada. The NAIA developed the Champions of Character program in response to the growing problem of deteriorating standards of integrity in sports and society.

The Champions of Character program is made up of five components. They are respect, integrity, responsibility, servant leadership and sportsmanship. Each of those qualifications must be met in order to receive the award.

"The Champions of Character program is a game plan dedicated to character-driven intercollegiate athletics," said Rob Miller, NAIA Director of Champions of Character. "Successful teams are built on a solid foundation and hundreds of competitive programs see the value in the NAIA and the Champion of Characters model."

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In 2006, UST became an independent member of the NAIA and introduced its first ever varsity women's volleyball team. In 2007, men's soccer was added to the roster and in 2008, a men's basketball team will be joining the UST athletic department.

University of St. Thomas, dedicated to building leaders of faith and character, is a private institution committed to the liberal arts and to the religious, ethical and intellectual tradition of Catholic higher education.

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