



News Release

Contact:

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

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**University of St. Thomas Welcomes Todd Smith  
as Athletic Director, Men's Basketball Coach**

HOUSTON (April 28) – Todd Smith will join The University of St. Thomas as athletic director and men's basketball coach. Smith will develop and lead UST's inaugural basketball team which is set to take the court for the first time in 2009-2010 school year. He will assume his post at UST as of June 1.

Smith served as the top assistant basketball coach at Rice University from 1996 to 2007. On the basketball court, his duties included player development, strength and conditioning, and the planning and implementation of daily practices. When not on the floor working with one of the Owls, Smith's responsibilities included scheduling, travel, fundraising, academics, office administration and summer camp. As the camp director, Smith built the Rice Owls basketball camp into one of the biggest and best in Texas, handling nearly 1500 campers each summer.

"On behalf of the University of St. Thomas community, we welcome Todd Smith and his family to campus," UST President Dr. Robert Ivany said. "After a lengthy search, we believe that Todd has the ability and character to lead our athletic program. He has been dedicated to the student athlete concept and understands our commitment to educate leaders of faith and character. Please join me in expressing our best wishes to Todd."

Smith said he is excited to join the University of St. Thomas community.

"After living in Houston for 18 years and falling in love with the city, I felt like the chance to lead the UST athletic department while coaching basketball would be a once in a lifetime opportunity. There are great things on the horizon for UST athletics and I am looking forward to being a part of Dr. Ivany's vision for the future of the entire University," Smith said.

Smith is known for his aptitude for recruiting talented athletes. Smith's very first recruiting class included NBA journeyman Mike Wilks. Smith also recruited 2006 Conference USA Player of the Year and Utah Jazz member Morris Almond, along with current Houston Rocket Michael Harris.

Smith earned his bachelor of science in physical education and communications from Valparaiso University in 1989. As a graduate assistant at Rice during the 1989-91 seasons, Smith accumulated two years of upper-level courses toward his master's degree. Smith was a four-year basketball letterman at Valparaiso University. Smith ended his collegiate career with 368 assists, placing him third on the Crusaders all-time assists list.

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He and his wife Ketti (Rice, '89) reside in Pearland, and have three sons, Turner, Tate, Jace and a daughter, Sadie.

UST joined the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics in 2006, and offers varsity women's volleyball and men's soccer. The University was named a Champions of Character Institution by NAIA in 2007. UST was one of 130 institutions that made the list for the 2006-2007 school year. UST also hosts a variety of intramural sports competitions.

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.