



News Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**University of St. Thomas announces slate of NAIA sports**

HOUSTON (Nov. 7, 2006) As a new member of The National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA), the University of St. Thomas formally announces implementation plans for its sports program. The University's women's intercollegiate volleyball team has just completed its first fully-scheduled season. The University plans to add men's soccer in 2007, men's basketball in 2008, and women's soccer in 2009.

"We sought NAIA membership partly because of the governing body's particular focus on character and respect, and because it appears to be the most desirable choice for an institution with an expanding intercollegiate sports program," said Dr. Robert R. Ivany, president of the University of St. Thomas. "We will continue to add intercollegiate sports carefully, depending on fund-raising success among community friends."

The NAIA, home to 25 conferences in 14 regions throughout the United States and Canada, houses NAIA membership institutions dedicated to the development of character and respect in our student-athletes.

The University has organized a group of community friends and alumni to help underwrite the new athletics program. Community leaders George DeMontrond and Marjorie Evans co-chaired the UST Athletics Advisory Committee which made the recommendation to implement intercollegiate athletics.

"The Houston community continues to respond enthusiastically to St. Thomas' efforts to make intercollegiate sports an integral part of developing leaders of faith and character," DeMontrond said. "We plan to move into a full range of men's and women's sports during the next five years."

“The University of St. Thomas seeks to educate the whole person, and I believe that intramural sports, club sports and intercollegiate sports are a critical component of that equation,” said Marjorie Evans. “The new emphasis on sports has already enabled UST to compete with other universities to attract top-notch students.”

The University of St. Thomas has applied for membership in the Red River Athletic Conference and will compete in Region VI, which encompasses Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico and part of Arkansas.

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

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